



**ZACH KLEIN**  
COLUMBUS CITY ATTORNEY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
Friday, March 17, 2023  
Contact: Pete Shipley, 614.965.0203  
Email: [pjshipley@columbus.gov](mailto:pjshipley@columbus.gov)

## City Attorney Zach Klein: City Shuttters Franklinton Drug House known for Violent Crime and Narcotics Sales

*City says property located just blocks from area businesses, a public park and numerous residential homes*

**COLUMBUS, OH**—Columbus City Attorney Zach Klein announced today that the City of Columbus shut down a Franklinton drug house that has been the scene of numerous calls for reported violent crime, narcotics sales, overdoses and theft over the past year. Klein announced that Columbus Police executed an order to board up the property located at 544 W. Walnut Street, just blocks from popular area businesses, Dodge Park and numerous residential homes.

**“When violence and drugs threaten public safety, it’s important that the City steps in to disrupt the flow of drugs into our streets, hold criminals accountable and make neighborhoods like Franklinton safer for residents, businesses and visitors,”** said Columbus City Attorney Zach Klein. **“Franklinton is safer with this drug house out of play.”**

According to court documents, CPD received multiple complaints regarding the property beginning in January 2022, including numerous reports of domestic violence, assaults, fights, burglaries and overdoses.

In August 2022, CPD received a complaint regarding suspicious persons at the premises, with the caller stating that several individuals were loitering on and around the property, and over the next several months, CPD received multiple narcotics complaints regarding the premises.

In October 2022, a report to CPD indicated multiple people coming and going from the premises and that people were camping in the backyard.

In December 2022, CPD detectives made a controlled purchase of methamphetamine from a male inside the residence.

In February 2023, CPD officers were dispatched the premises in response to a disturbance. Upon arrival, officers made contact with three individuals, one of whom was identified to have outstanding traffic warrants and was placed under arrest. Another individual was found in possession of drug paraphernalia and methamphetamine. The third individual was found in possession of fentanyl.

Later in February 2023, CPD detectives made a controlled purchase of methamphetamine from the premises.

Additionally, City Code Enforcement noted multiple violations of health and safety codes beginning in November 2022. Code Enforcement issued notices to the property owners that needed to be corrected within 20 days. The order was not complied and the property remains in violation.

**“CPD, Code and concerned neighbors helped us build this case to shut down a dangerous drug house and make Franklinton safer,”** said Assistant City Attorney Zach Gwin. **“The City will continue to identify problem properties and work with our partners to find solutions that strengthen neighborhoods and make Columbus safer for residents and families.”**

[The court order is attached.](#)

###