

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE Wednesday, April 19, 2023 Contact: Pete Shipley, 614.965.0203 Email: <u>pjshipley@columbus.gov</u>

City Attorney Zach Klein Files Lawsuit as City Shuts Down Illegal After-Hours Club

Says City investigating possible connection to now-shuttered Franklinton club linked to a double homicide, criminal activity and numerous safety violations

COLUMBUS, OH—Columbus City Attorney Zach Klein announced his office has filed a lawsuit against the operators of an illegal after-hours club located at 2400 East Dublin Granville Road. Columbus Police executed a search warrant at the club around 1:30 a.m. on Saturday, April 15, where officers charged individuals and seized property associated with the illegal operation, including liquor and music equipment.

"We've seen increased crime and violence emanating from illegal after-hours clubs across the city, and now is the time to crack down on operators who skirt liquor laws, ignore occupancy and safety codes, and overlook violence spilling out into the community," said Columbus City Attorney Zach Klein. "If a bar, club or any business threatens public safety, we'll use every legal tool we have to hold owners accountable. The City is sending a clear message: you can't set up illegal clubs and expect to operate under your own set of rules. We'll shut you down."

The City is currently investigating several potential connections between the illegal East Dublin Granville Road operation and an <u>illegal after-hours club in south Franklinton</u> that the City shut down in March 2023. That club, known as "The Underground," had been the scene of violence and criminal activity, as well as numerous safety code violations, including overcrowding and locked entry/exit points. That property was also connected to a double homicide that occurred just blocks from the premises in the week leading up to the City shutting it down.

The court order is attached. A preliminary injunction hearing is set for April 27.

Court order is attached

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