

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE Thursday, February 17, 2022 Contact: Pete Shipley, 614.965.0203 Email: <u>pjshipley@columbus.gov</u>

City Shuts Down East Side Drug House Located Near Local Elementary School

Property known among area residents for criminal drug activity, violence and unsanitary and unsafe living conditions

COLUMBUS, OH—Columbus City Attorney Zach Klein announced today that the City of Columbus obtained emergency court order to shut down an eastside drug house that has a history of narcotics sales and use, violence and dangerous code violations. Columbus Police executed an order to board up 2996 E. 6th Ave. Wednesday.

Area residents reported multiple overdoses at the property and have found used needles on the ground near the premises. The property is located across from a church and just blocks from the East Columbus Elementary School and a neighborhood grocery store, among other local small businesses.

"Neighbors are rightly concerned by dangerous criminal activity happening on the same streets where they live, attend church, send their children to school, or operate their business," said City Attorney Zach Klein. "Today's action provides immediate relief to east side residents and reinforces our commitment to target drug houses and criminal activity that threaten our neighborhoods."

According to court documents, CPD received approximately 56 calls for service related to drug activity, overdoses, domestic violence, code violations and other issues from Feb. 2021 to Feb. 2022.

In Nov. 2021, CPD made covert purchases of fentanyl at the premises. Following another purchase of narcotics in Dec. 2021, CPD executed a search warrant of the premises and recovered a semi-automatic weapon, methamphetamine, fentanyl, and other drugs.

The premises also received a number of code violations between Feb. 2021 and Feb. 2022 for dangerous and unsanitary living conditions, with large amounts of trash and debris in the yard, nine broken windows, missing smoke detectors and large amounts of solid waste inside the house. The property owner was given emergency notices to remedy the violations, but subsequent inspections found the property non-compliant.

The court order is attached.