

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE Tuesday, June 14, 2022 Contact: Pete Shipley, 614.965.0203 Email: <u>pjshipley@columbus.gov</u>

Eastland Mall Declared a Public Nuisance as City Pushes to Hold Property Owners Accountable for Deteriorating Conditions

Timetable announced for property owners to bring site into compliance

COLUMBUS, OH— Columbus City Attorney Zach Klein today announced the City has obtained a court order declaring Eastland Mall a public nuisance following months of neglect by property owners to fix outstanding health and safety code violations and bring the site into compliance.

The City filed a case against the property's owners, Eastland Mall Holdings LLC, in April 2021, and additional violations were filed earlier this year. Property owners have yet to address numerous outstanding violations identified by Code Enforcement officers, including inadequate lighting, potholes in parking areas, structural issues and unauthorized zoning, among other issues.

"The conditions at Eastland Mall are a hazard to the public and immediate action must be taken to bring the property into compliance, and that begins with property owners stepping up to make improvements," said City Attorney Zach Klein. "Eastland Mall is important to our east side communities, and we're prepared to pursue every legal option to hold property owners accountable and ensure the site's longterm economic health."

The court ordered Eastland Mall Holdings LLC to bring the property into compliance and maintain its compliance within applicable laws and codes pursuant to the following schedule:

- Parking lot violations shall be fixed and brought into compliance no later than Aug. 13, 2022;
- All other code violations, including litter and solid waste, high grass, noncompliant graphics, graffiti, broken concrete, wall overhang and mortar voids must be fixed and in compliance by July 13, 2022.

In addition, the court ordered the Eastland Mall property owners to conduct daily litter pickup and biweekly maintenance of the grounds to maintain the property and keep it Code compliant.

A contempt hearing is scheduled for Sept. 22, 2022, where the court will determine if property owners complied with the current order, abated outstanding issues and brought the property into compliance.

Failure to comply with the court order would authorize the City to abate the property at the owner's expense.

The court document is attached.

###