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ICYMI: City Attorney Klein Statement as Court Denies State's Attempt to Block Commonsense Gun Safety Measures

City Attorney Klein calls decision a win for Columbus residents

COLUMBUS, OH—Columbus City Attorney Zach Klein today issued a statement Friday as the Fairfield County Common Pleas Court denied the State of Ohio's motion for a preliminary injunction in its lawsuit challenging the City's recently passed gun safety measures aimed at protecting public safety, reducing violence and preventing gun deaths. This decision allowed the City's safety ordinances to go into full effect on Jan. 21.

City Attorney Klein's statement from Friday is below:

"Today, the rule of law prevailed, and the biggest winners are the residents of Columbus who want nothing more than to take commonsense and reasonable steps to reduce the scourge of gun violence in our neighborhoods and keep our kids and communities safe.

"We respect the judge's decision and will continue to defend the rights of our City and its residents to pursue safety measures that make sense for us here in Columbus. I want to thank City Attorney staff as well as our partners at the City and County, Deputy Police Chief Weir and Franklin County Assistant Prosecuting Attorney Gripshover, for their invaluable help in delivering this major win for Columbus residents."

In December 2022, the State of Ohio filed a lawsuit in Fairfield County Common Pleas Court to block several of the gun safety measures passed by Columbus City Council, including high capacity magazines and safe storage requirements to keep firearms out of the hands of minors. The State claimed that Columbus' ordinances violated the Ohio Constitution's version of the "Second Amendment."

The Court granted a temporary restraining order in December, and a hearing on the State's motion on a preliminary injunction to block the City's gun safety ordinances was held Jan. 12, 2023.

Among the State's Jan. 12 arguments before the Court, Attorney General Dave Yost attempted to argue in part that the City's safe storage ordinance is unconstitutional on the basis that the state

allowed child soldiers during the Civil War. The judge summarily refused to admit the exhibit into evidence. The judge also found:

- The State failed to present evidence that the City's safe storage provisions prohibits access and use in home defense.
- The State failed to present evidence that the City's magazine limit outlaws AR-15s.
- The State has failed to show that any harm will result in the implementation of the City's ordinances.
- The temporary restraining order issued in the case will expire at midnight on Jan. 20, 2023.

[A copy of the Court's entry is attached.](#)

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