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Landlord Agrees to City's Request to Shut Down Hilltop Property Plagued by Drugs and Violence

Four-unit building was the scene of multiple shootings, stabbings, narcotics complaints, overdoses, domestic violence, prostitution, gang activity and more

COLUMBUS, OH—Columbus City Attorney Zach Klein announced today that the City of Columbus secured an emergency court order against a residential property that was the location of more than 80 police runs since September 2019. The Columbus Division of Police recently conducted undercover purchases of fentanyl and crack cocaine from the premises, while also recovering three firearms and apprehending a fugitive wanted for murder in separate incidents.

Klein filed a complaint for preliminary and permanent injunctive relief in the Franklin County Environmental Court against [56-62 South Burgess Avenue](#), which is located within walking distance of a family healthcare clinic and pharmacy. The current landlord, who resides in California, inherited many of the problems associated with the property when he purchased it sight unseen on May 6, 2021. The landlord boarded up the premises voluntarily and is now under court injunction to maintain the property in compliance with nuisance abatement codes.

“This is another example of the potential problems that arise when an absentee landlord, however well-intentioned, acquires a property without even visiting the site,” said Klein. **“We’re hoping that keeping this property boarded up will put an end to the criminal activity and give the landlord time to renovate the building and bring it up to the standards that the surrounding neighborhood deserves.”**

According to court documents, Columbus police have responded to the premises for a multitude of incidents in the last two years, including:

- Assault
- Five burglaries

- Two stabbings
- 24 disturbances
- Two domestic incidents
- Two suicide attempts
- Five gun calls
- Three Shotspotter alerts
- Three drug overdoses

On October 21, 2019, the previous landlord was at the premises when an assailant struck him “multiple times with a piece of floor molding.”

On August 29, 2020 officers responded to the premises on a report of an unconscious female found lying naked in the alley. Investigators were told that a resident provided the victim with fentanyl earlier that morning and then “dumped her in the alley” when she began to overdose. The victim later contacted the police to inform them that she believed she also had been a victim of sexual assault.

On September 2, 2021 officers responded to a stabbing and followed a trail of blood that led to the premises. Twelve individuals were found inside one of the apartment units, including the victim, who claimed he had been “stabbed with a crack pipe.”

On September 14, 2021, detectives from the Investigative Tactical Unit executed a search warrant at the premises after previously conducting two covert purchases of fentanyl. During the search warrant, the detectives located eight individuals inside one of the units, including a known gang member. The detectives also recovered a loaded handgun with three live rounds in the magazine, suspected fentanyl, and \$953 in cash.

On September 16, 2021, Columbus SWAT officers apprehended an individual with an active murder warrant from the premises.

On October 12, 2021, officers executed another search warrant after conducting a covert purchase of crack cocaine from the premises five days earlier. During the search warrant, the officers recovered a Taurus 709 9mm handgun and a Ruger P95 handgun.

“The pattern of violence and crime at this property posed an ongoing threat to the area, especially given its location in a dense residential area that is also home to several small businesses,” said Assistant City Attorney Zach Gwin, who is the Zone Initiative attorney assigned to Police Zone Three on the city’s west side. “We greatly appreciate the court granting the order and want to thank the Columbus Division of Police for their diligent work in helping us build our case.”

[Copy of Preliminary Injunction](#)

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