

Contact: William A. Sperlazza
Phone: 614.645.7479
Email: wasperlazza@columbus.gov

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City Looks to Shut Down Hotel Plagued by Shootings, Drug Trafficking, Prostitution

COLUMBUS, OH—Columbus City Attorney Richard C. Pfeiffer, Jr. announced that the City of Columbus filed a complaint for temporary and permanent injunctive relief to close the doors on a Brice Road hotel that has been plagued for years with shootings, drug trafficking, prostitution and reports of rape and sexual assault.

According to the city’s complaint, the *Super 8—Reynoldsburg/East Columbus* hotel at 2055 Brice Road has drained police and fire resources by generating more than 320 calls for service since 2015. City Attorney Pfeiffer filed the complaint and emergency board up request against the owner of the hotel, Dream Land Hotels LLC, and its sole incorporator, Pramod A. Patel, in the Franklin County Environmental Court this afternoon.

Judge Daniel R. Hawkins granted the city’s request for a temporary restraining order, ordering the hotel to be evacuated and boarded up on Wednesday, May 24, 2017 at 1:00 p.m.

“We are pleased the court agreed there was sufficient evidence to justify shutting down the hotel until a full hearing is held,” said City Attorney Richard C. Pfeiffer, Jr. “As always, we let the facts speak for themselves.”

Columbus police began investigating the hotel after receiving complaints about on-going drug sales and prostitution occurring at the premises. A fire inspection conducted jointly by the city and the state in late 2015 turned up used needles and crack cocaine, in addition to “a litany of fire code violations.”

Several police investigations resulted in the arrest and conviction of numerous individuals for prostitution-related offenses. Covert operations also uncovered evidence of extensive drug dealing, including purchases of cocaine, marijuana and oxycodone.

Police have responded to numerous reports of criminal acts of violence:

- On January 19, 2015 police responded to a reported robbery at gunpoint that occurred inside a room at the hotel.
- On August 9, 2015 police responded to a reported shooting and found a victim with a gunshot wound in room 242.
- On August 10, 2015 police responded to a reported robbery at gunpoint that occurred in room 239.
- On January 26, 2016 police responded to a call of shots fired at the premises and recovered a firearm.

- On April 24, 2016 police responded to a call of shots fired and found a victim with a gunshot wound lying in the grass at the premises.
- On August 14, 2016 police were patrolling the premises when they recovered a firearm in the stairway of the hotel.
- On September 2, 2016 police responded to the premises where a reported rape/sexual assault occurred.
- On September 22, 2016 police responded to a reported robbery at gunpoint and recovered a stolen firearm and marijuana.
- On October 17, 2016 police were patrolling the premises when an individual was found illegally handling a firearm; the individual was later convicted on a felony count of improper handling of a firearm.
- On October 29, 2016 police responded to a report of an individual brandishing a firearm at the premises.
- On November 7, 2016 police responded to the premises where a reported rape/sexual assault occurred.

The Columbus Police Division sent certified letters on September 12, 2016 and January 5, 2017 to the owner/operator of the hotel indicating illegal activity was occurring at the premises and that, if continued, could subject the property to nuisance abatement litigation.

“We know that targeting problem hotels can produce real, tangible results for communities, as our crackdown along the 161 corridor has resulted in major crimes dropping 52 percent in the area,” said Senior Assistant City Prosecutor William A. Sperlazza. **“The *Super 8* on Brice Road has a reputation for prostitution and violence in the neighborhood and we hope that shutting it down will have a similar effect in helping reduce crime on the east side.”**

A hearing to consider a permanent injunction against the *Super 8* hotel and its owner/operator is scheduled for 9:00 a.m. on Wednesday, May 31, 2017 in the Franklin County Environmental Court.

A copy of the court’s temporary restraining order may be read [here](#).

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