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## City Shuts Down Illegal After-Hours Club

*Boot joint operating near Green Lawn Cemetery charged exorbitant prices*

**COLUMBUS, OH**—An illegal after-hours club that prompted at least 28 police runs this year is being boarded up today after City Attorney Richard C. Pfeiffer, Jr. secured an emergency court order to shut down the operation that officials say is a public nuisance that threatens the health, safety, and welfare of residents of Columbus.

The property at [1516 West Mound Street](#) is a commercial structure located in a manufacturing district, with the exception of residential, single-family homes directly north of the premises. It was operating without a liquor license or certificate of occupancy and became the scene of assaults, battery, drug dealing, weapons violations, and robbery.

**“This is yet another example of the different types of nuisance and criminal activities that our office can address using civil litigation,” said Columbus City Attorney Richard C. Pfeiffer, Jr.**

Columbus Police were dispatched to the premises around 3:00 a.m. on June 18, 2017 in response to reports of an “active fight and people throwing beer bottles into the residential neighborhood to the north.” Officers observed several people in the parking lot, including known felons and four security guards in “tactical style” vests. At least one of the guards was armed.

Inside the building, officers found 60-70 people, a ticket counter, hot dog warmer, deep fryer, and alcohol for sale.

VICE detectives subsequently began a covert investigation of the premises and determined that the illegal operation was charging a \$20 cover charge at the door and \$10 per drink ticket for alcoholic beverages. Narcotics and marijuana was being used and sold inside the premises as well.

Based upon the evidence obtained, police officials sent two certified letters to the owners notifying them of the illicit activities occurring at the premises and the legal consequences of failing to abate the nuisance. Police also executed a search warrant on August 19, 2017 and arrested three individuals inside the premises on charges ranging from illegally operating the establishment to possession of cocaine and crystal meth.

After initially indicating they would comply with the city’s warnings in August and September, the owners ceased communicating with police officials. Detectives provided evidence that the property was still being used illegally as an after-hours club up until today’s court hearing.

**“The owners were given ample notice of the criminal and nuisance activities occurring at their property and for whatever reasons did not follow through on their obligation to put an end to it,” said Assistant City Attorney Katarina Karac.**

In addition to the criminal and nuisance activities occurring at the premises, the property is not in compliance with city zoning and health codes.

A follow-up hearing for a preliminary and permanent injunction against the owners is scheduled for 11:30 a.m. on November 6, 2017. At this hearing, the court can order the property to remain boarded for up to one year.

Copies of the city's [complaint](#) and the [court's order](#) are available online.

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