



ZACH KLEIN
COLUMBUS CITY ATTORNEY

Contact: Meredith Tucker
Phone: 614.645.8997
Email: mctucker@columbus.gov

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

City Shutting Down Linden Drug House that Doubled as Fugitive Hideout

*Property was the scene of rampant drug dealing, multiple overdoses, violent assaults,
robbery and kidnapping*

COLUMBUS, OH—Columbus City Attorney Zach Klein announced today that the City of Columbus secured an emergency court order to vacate and shutter a notorious Linden area residence that officials described as a hub for drug trafficking and a haven for criminals who “regularly hide from law enforcement.”

City Attorney Klein’s office filed a request for an *ex parte* temporary restraining order in the Franklin County Environmental Court to board up [2755 Pontiact Street](#), which is located within a half-mile radius of Columbus Alternative High School, Audubon Park, and the Linden Recreational Center. The owner of record is Sucha Singh of Columbus.

Court documents indicate that a drug dealer nicknamed “Smoke” operated out of the premises.

“From drug overdoses, stabbings, robberies, and kidnappings, this property has been a serious danger to the community,” said City Attorney Zach Klein. “With the added risk of this house acting as a safe haven for fugitives, we’re glad to shut down this menace to the neighborhood.”

Columbus Police began investigating the property last summer after responding to a number of calls for service at the premises for three separate heroin overdoses, a stabbing, a robbery and kidnapping, various assaults, suspicious disturbances, and individuals with active warrants attempting to evade the law.

Narcotics detectives found evidence of persistent crack-cocaine transactions occurring at the premises, leading police officials to notify Mr. Singh via certified mail about the drug violations occurring at his property. The letter, which was signed as received on September 2, 2017, also informed him of his duty to evict and abate the nuisance.

There are no court records to indicate the owner took any action, while drug trafficking at the premises has not stopped. Police continued to gather evidence of crack-cocaine purchases and drug abuse at the premises as late as this past week.

“Our first priority is to try to work proactively with property owners,” said Assistant City Attorney Katarina Karac. “We gave the property owner ample opportunity to fulfill his legal obligations but he left us with no choice but to seek a court order to board up his property.”

In filing a civil motion for injunctive relief along with the emergency TRO request, Karac, who is the Zone Initiative Attorney assigned to the Linden area of Columbus, is seeking to prove that Mr. Singh is guilty of maintaining a nuisance by establishing that he, as owner of the premises, “knew of, participated in, or acquiesced to the activity which constituted the nuisance” as prescribed by [Chapter 3767](#) of the Ohio Revised Code.

The hearing for preliminary and permanent injunctive relief is scheduled for 11:00 a.m. on February 20, 2018.

If the property is ultimately declared to be a statutorily defined public nuisance, state law grants the court authority to order the premises shut down for up to one year following the permanent injunction hearing.

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

###