



ZACH KLEIN
COLUMBUS CITY ATTORNEY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Monday, October 15, 2018
Contact: Meredith Tucker, 614. 965.0203
Email: mctucker@columbus.gov

City of Columbus Shuts Down Fifth Crime-Plagued Carryout This Year

Far east side market was a 'one-stop shop' for crack cocaine, prostitution, underage alcohol sales

COLUMBUS, OH—A troubled carryout that has prompted more than 150 police runs since 2016 for drug dealing, violent assault, armed robbery, and prostitution has been shut down after Columbus City Attorney Zach Klein secured an emergency restraining order against the business this morning. It is the fifth carryout the City Attorney's office has shut down this year by filing nuisance abatement lawsuits in the Franklin County Environmental Court.

Beechwood Market—located at [3796 East Livingstone Avenue](#), which is minutes away from the Livingston Avenue Branch Library and Barnett Rec Center—was boarded up today after coming under police surveillance following community complaints about illegal narcotics activity at the premises. The owner of record, IAS Brothers Holdings LLC, and its statutory agent, Same T. Husein, also were cited for violating city building and zoning codes after converting the property from a bar to a retail carryout without proper zoning clearance. They ran further afoul of city code by also adding a drive-thru without proper approval.

The City Attorney's complaint describes the market as being part of a "hub of criminal activity," and sits directly across the street from *Lounge 13*, a [violence-plagued nightclub that the city shut down last year](#).

"This carryout was a major contributor to the violence and crime that has afflicted this area for years," said Columbus City Attorney Zach Klein. "Between the high number of calls for service and the illegal activity that prompted a months-long police investigation, this business was a detriment to the community and a drain on public resources."

According to court documents, on July 16, 2017, the Columbus Police Division's assault squad responded to a felony assault in which the victim was stabbed multiple times after reportedly being involved in an altercation at the premises. On August 24, 2017, police confiscated crack cocaine, marijuana and oxycodone hydrochloride from three males sitting in a vehicle in the parking lot.

On October 1, 2017, police approached a group of males loitering in front of the premises, causing one of them to flee. The suspect was subsequently apprehended and found to have a loaded firearm and a bag of marijuana. A month later, officers approached another group of males who had been standing at the premises "for a long period of time." They reportedly admitted to smoking crack, with one of the individuals stating he goes to the Beechwood Market to purchase drugs "from whoever is standing out there that day."

On March 9, 2018, officers recovered a small bag of marijuana and a bag of cocaine from inside a vehicle parked at the premises. In June, an ongoing covert police investigation led to the purchase of 35.6 grams of crack cocaine at the premises.

On July 10, 2018, officers observed a vehicle parked at the premises. Upon noticing the officers, a male leaning into the vehicle immediately went into the store while the driver backed out of the parking lot, hitting a patrol officer's bike. Officers detained the driver, recovering \$2300 in cash, a bag of marijuana and ammunition from the car.

That same day, police officials sent a certified letter to the property owner and the carryout operator notifying them of the pending investigation and the illegal narcotics activity occurring at the premises. The letter outlined their responsibility to stop the illegal activity or become subject to a nuisance abatement complaint. Both letters were signed as received.

The illegal activity continued, as did the police investigation. In August, police made several covert purchases of illicit drugs and arrested a known drug dealer who was wanted, and eventually extradited, on seven felony arrest warrants in South Carolina. During the arrest, officers confiscated crack cocaine and marijuana from his person.

Also in August, police charged a store clerk with selling alcohol to a minor from the market's drive thru. The criminal case is pending.

On October 4, 2018, officers responded to an armed robbery at the premises and found a victim who said he was held up at gunpoint by three men in front of the store. Officers recovered a handgun holster and a magazine with bullets from the scene.

“We would like to thank the community and the Columbus Police Division for their diligence on this case,” said Assistant City Attorney Tiara Ross. “We’re pleased the judge granted our request for a temporary restraining order and look forward to a full hearing next week.”

State law grants the court authority to order the premises shut down for up to one year. The owner also is permanently enjoined from “conducting, maintaining, using, occupying, or in any way permitting” a public nuisance anywhere else in Franklin County.

In order to secure closure of the business, Ross, who is the Zone Initiative attorney assigned to Columbus' far east side, is seeking to prove that the owner and operator are guilty of maintaining a nuisance by establishing they “knew of, participated in, or acquiesced to the activity which constituted the nuisance” as prescribed by [Chapter 3767](#) of the Ohio Revised Code.

A copy of the [court's order](#) is available online.

###