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## City Attorney Klein Applauds Judgement Holding Colonial Village Owners in Contempt, Accountable for Deplorable Living Conditions

*Says judgement is a step forward to ensuring a better quality of life for residents at 508 unit complex on City's east side*

**COLUMBUS, OH**— Columbus City Attorney Zach Klein today announced that Columbus Environmental Court Judge Stephanie Mingo entered judgement against the owners of the Colonial Village Apartments on the city's east side, holding them in contempt for failing to remediate numerous code violations at the 508 unit complex. Judge Mingo imposed a \$50,000 fine against the property owners. A new contempt hearing is set for April 25.

**“When we say we’re going to hold derelict landlords accountable in the City of Columbus, we mean it. If you can’t provide safe, secure, and sanitary living conditions for tenants, you’re going to pay the price,”** said City Attorney Zach Klein. **“This judgement holds Apex Colonial accountable and is a step forward to ensuring a better quality of life for residents.”**

According to court documents, Apex Colonial failed to address a number of code violations on the premises, including pest conditions, internal health and safety violations within numerous apartment units, and broken windows, among other issues.

**“We applaud Judge Mingo for entering judgement to hold these landlords accountable for the deplorable living conditions at Colonial Village. The City will continue using every legal avenue to get these apartments to the standard residents deserve,”** said Assistant City Attorney Tiara Ross, one of the lead attorneys representing the City in the contempt motion against the Apex Colonial.

The City of Columbus has been engaged with Colonial Village for several years in an effort to hold property owners accountable for criminal activity, violence, and countless code violations that have harmed residents at the complex.

In Aug. 2021, the City secured a court order declaring the property a public nuisance, with an agreement of enforceable orders to bring the property into compliance with City Code by remediating outstanding emergency violations, increasing staff, and improving maintenance, security, cameras and lighting.

[Earlier this month](#), the City delivered a major victory for residents as it obtained a court order to appoint a receiver to the Colonial Village Apartments on the city's east side. Since the order was granted, appointed receiver, Bob Weiler, and property manager Hayes Gibson have been on site remediating outstanding code violations and working to improve living conditions for residents. Once court mandated improvements are made, the property will be sold.

**“If you’re a landlord and you fail to provide safe, secure and sanitary living conditions, we will use every available tool to hold you accountable,”** said Assistant City Attorney Sarah Pomeroy, one of the lead attorneys representing the City in the contempt motion against the Apex Colonial. **“This judgement is a path forward for residents who want nothing more than a good, safe place to call home.”**

[The court's judgement is attached.](#)

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