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## City Targets Drug House in Clintonville

*Heroin dealer operating two blocks from elementary school*

**COLUMBUS, OH**— Columbus City Attorney Richard C. Pfeiffer, Jr. announced today that the City of Columbus is seeking to vacate and shutter a Clintonville property after the owner failed to take action for almost a year to stop heroin and other drugs from being dealt at the premises.

The City Attorney's office filed a complaint for preliminary and permanent injunctive relief in the Franklin County Environmental Court to board up the property located at 519 East Beaumont Road, which is within a two-block radius of Colerain Elementary School. The owner of record is Josephine Gjessing.

The court granted the city's request for preliminary injunctive relief to shut down the property pending a permanent injunction hearing to be held at 2:00 p.m. on July 25, 2017. The property will be boarded up this afternoon. 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.

**“We have made it well-known that we will target the places where drug trafficking occurs and the people who enable such activity to persist,” said Columbus City Attorney Richard C. Pfeiffer, Jr.**

The Columbus Police Division (CPD) initiated a covert investigation in response to a community complaint about illegal drug activity at the premises in late summer of last year. According to court documents, narcotics detectives purchased heroin from a “Caucasian male occupant who appeared to be in his thirties” on August 29, 2016.

On September 6, 2016 CPD issued a certified letter notifying Gjessing of the illegal drug activity occurring at the premises and informing her that failure to take action could result in the city filing a nuisance abatement lawsuit. Gjessing signed the letter receipt on September 20.

In late April of 2017 police received another community complaint of “random, suspicious people coming to and going from the house,” indicating that illegal drug activity was continuing to occur at the premises.

On May 1, 2017 narcotics detectives purchased heroin from a “Caucasian male occupant who appeared to be in his thirties.” On June 2, 2017 police executed a covert purchase of marijuana at the premises from an individual who matched the previous descriptions of the alleged drug dealer.

City code enforcement officers also cited the property for a multitude of code violations earlier this spring.

**“No part of Columbus is immune from the drug dealing,” said Assistant City Attorney Katarina Karac. “Our first preference always will be to work proactively with a property owner to try to abate a nuisance before taking the more extreme measure of requesting a board-up order from the court.”**

In order to secure long-term closure of the property, Karac, who is the Zone Initiative Attorney assigned to the Clintonville area, is seeking to prove that the owner is guilty of maintaining a nuisance by establishing that Gjessing, 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.

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

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