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City of Columbus Secures Court Order to Shut Down Short North Carryout

'High Five Spice Emporium' to immediately stop selling alcohol, must cease all operations today after judge issues order

COLUMBUS, OH— Columbus City Attorney Zach Klein announced today that the City of Columbus secured a court order to vacate and shutter the *High Five Spice Emporium*, a carryout store that has plagued the Short North with violence and crime for years. It is the seventh business City Attorney Klein has closed down due to unlawful and irresponsible business practices since he took office in January. The property will be boarded up today at 12:00 p.m.

The Franklin County Environmental Court issued the order after the City Attorney's office filed a complaint for preliminary and permanent injunctive relief against the establishment that, according to officer testimony, accounted for as many as *one-third of all police runs* in a precinct that encompasses several neighborhoods, including Weinland Park, the University District, Harrison West, Italian Village, Victorian Village and Fifth-by-Northwest.

The order, stating that the City of Columbus “has established by clear and convincing evidence that the [High Five Spice Emporium] presents a threat of irreparable harm to the community due to the history of alcohol violations and acts of violence,” requires the carryout to immediately stop selling alcohol and declares that the premises shall be boarded up today, Friday, July 13, 2018 at 12:00 p.m.

“This is now the seventh business we have shut down since January for operating unlawfully and irresponsibly and hopefully it sends a message to others to clean up their act,” said Columbus City Attorney Zach Klein. “No community in Columbus should have to be subjected to the almost daily barrage of intoxication, intimidation, danger and disturbances that continued at this carryout.”

The City Attorney's complaint provided a long list of illegal activity and disturbing incidents occurring in and around the premises of High Five, including threats and assaults against customers, threats and assaults perpetrated by customers, threats and assaults against store employees, and threats and assaults perpetrated by store employees.

Amongst the nearly 150 police runs for reports of property destruction, fights, disturbances, suspicious persons, trespassers, open container violations, public intoxication, persons with weapons, assault and battery, one of the most unsettling incidents was an eyewitness account

alleging that a High Five employee held a victim up against the store window as an assailant stabbed the victim with a pair of hedge clippers.

“We would like to thank the community for taking a stand against this reckless business operation and commend the Columbus Division of Police for all their efforts on this case,” said Assistant City Attorney Katarina Karac. “Between the high number of calls for service and the illegal activity that prompted a months-long investigation, this business was a detriment to the Short North community and a drain on public resources.”

A status conference is scheduled for Friday, August 10, 2018 at 12:00 p.m.

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

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