



ZACH KLEIN
COLUMBUS CITY ATTORNEY

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Columbus' Hotel/Motel Permit Ordinance Leads to 'Win-Win' for Community, Operator

Agreement between City of Columbus and extended-stay hotel chain led to large investment for building renovations, safety and security improvements

COLUMBUS, OH—Columbus City Attorney Zach Klein announced today that legislation he crafted while serving as a member of Columbus City Council is continuing to produce positive results as the City Attorney's office reported on progress recently achieved through an agreement forged using the hotel/motel licensing requirements that went into effect in 2016.

The City Attorney's office was party to an agreement reached between the City of Columbus and InTown Suites earlier this year that calls for the owner of a national chain of extended-stay properties to invest close to \$2.5 million in improvements to their two existing properties in Columbus. The agreement also mandates a number of safety and security measures to be implemented that were based upon security assessments conducted by the Columbus Division of Police.

The improvements include customer check-in picture technology, advanced security cameras and license plate readers.

“The goal will always be finding a way to hold hotel owners accountable for cleaning up their properties without having to shut them down completely, leaving large, empty footprints in important commercial corridors,” said Columbus City Attorney Zach Klein. “I’m proud to see our ordinance helped pave the way for an agreement with InTown Suites and hopefully it can serve as a model for other hotels and motels operating in Columbus.”

The agreement calls for the two InTown Suites hotels to have a security guard on-site between the hours of 12:00 p.m. and 4:00 a.m. each day. They also agreed to install and maintain interior and exterior security cameras that record footage 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The footage captured by all cameras must be stored for no less than 30 days and must be made available to law enforcement upon request.

The hotels also are required to maintain a guest log and a daily cleaning log as well as conduct background searches of all guests staying at the hotel using public domain information. Hotel employees are also required to enter each rented room every day to inspect for evidence of property damage or illicit use.

The renovations were completed last week at the InTown Suites located in north Columbus at [2420 East Dublin-Granville Road](#). Similar renovations will begin soon at their east Columbus location at [4790 Hilton Corporate Drive](#) and must be completed no later than November 1, 2018 as stipulated by the agreement.

“I would like to thank the Columbus Department of Public Safety for their efforts in helping craft this model agreement, as well as give recognition to InTown Suites CEO Jon Pertchik and his team for their commitment to being good corporate citizens,” Klein said.

In 2015, after seeing repeated and constant criminal activity occurring in some Columbus hotels and motels, Klein convened community leaders, business leaders and police to establish the licensing requirements and regulations incorporated into the hotel/motel permit legislation.

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