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City of Columbus Doubles Down Again, Boarding Up Two More Drug Houses

City Attorney secures emergency court orders to shut down two more dangerous drug operations—days after closing two others

COLUMBUS, OH—Columbus City Attorney Zach Klein announced today that the City of Columbus obtained emergency court orders to vacate and shutter two more properties that were the targets of separate, covert police investigations following a series of community complaints. Records indicate that officers responded to the two properties dozens of times for incidents including narcotics trafficking, drug overdoses, robbery, assault, shots fired, and domestic violence. Previous police raids also turned up a cache of weapons and ammunition at both sites.

City Attorney Klein's office filed dual motions for *ex parte* temporary restraining orders in the Franklin County Environmental Court to board up [938 South Weyant Avenue](#) on the city's east side and [938 Heyl Avenue](#) in the Southern Orchard neighborhood. Columbus Police and other city agents surprised the occupants earlier this morning to clear out the premises and enforce the court orders. It is the second time in less than a week that the city has taken out two drug houses on the [same day](#).

“In less than a week, we have shut down four properties that posed a serious risk to the community and to the police officers who responded to those locations for domestic violence, drug overdoses, and other calls for service,” said Columbus City Attorney Zach Klein. **“I want the public to know how important their tips are, especially in these instances, in helping us build strong cases based upon a preponderance of evidence.”**

938 Heyl Avenue

According to court documents, Columbus Police have received 42 calls for service at the premises since May 2017 for stolen vehicles, robbery, assaults, shots fired, indecent exposure, burglary, at least six reports of domestic violence, and 10 drug overdoses.

The property owner is listed as Gem Hewnman Enterprises LLC, in care of Guy Manos of Granville, Ohio. Narcotics detectives launched a covert investigation into the property in mid-2018 following community complaints of heroin and cocaine sales, gun violence, and prostitution, as well as the alarming number of medic runs due to drug overdoses.

In December, detectives made at least four covert purchases of crack cocaine. On January 2, 2019, police officials sent a certified letter to the property owner warning of the nuisance activity occurring at the premises. A month later, police received a community complaint that “so many

'little girls' were coming out of the premises 'so messed up.'”

After conducting a covert purchase of heroin from the premises, detectives executed a search warrant on February 27, 2019. During the raid, officers seized cash, crack cocaine, counterfeit money, a .22 caliber handgun, a .38 caliber handgun, a shotgun, several magazine clips and various rounds of ammunition.

A day later, police were called back to the premises and arrested an individual on felony possession of cocaine.

938 South Weyant Avenue

This property was the subject of a board-up order in 2014 after the City Attorney's office filed a complaint for injunctive relief due to persistent drug activity and violence. The current owner, Elizabeth Olawoye, was not a party to the lawsuit at that time.

Columbus Police began a new investigation after being notified that drug activity had resumed at the premises. Detectives conducted two covert purchases of illegal drugs in late July 2018, noting that four males inside the premises all had semi-automatic pistols during one of the buys.

On July 26, 2018, police executed a search warrant, seizing cash, marijuana, cocaine, two Ruger .40 caliber semi-automatic handguns, a Smith and Wesson .22 caliber gun, a Springfield Armory .45 caliber gun, and several magazines and live round ammunition.

Detectives conducted a covert purchase of heroin from the premises on February 25, 2019.

“The four drug houses we shut down in the past few days were clearly having a corrosive effect on their neighborhoods,” said Assistant City Attorney Heidy Tawadros. “We know there will be others and our office will work aggressively with the community and law enforcement to continue putting these drug operations out of business.”

Hearings for preliminary and permanent injunctive relief against both properties are scheduled for April 17, 2019 at 11:00 a.m.

Copies of the court orders for [938 Heyl Ave.](#) and [938 S. Weyant Ave.](#) are available online.

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