



# ZACH KLEIN

## COLUMBUS CITY ATTORNEY

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

June 2, 2020

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## City Attorney Klein Outlines Process for Reviewing Columbus Protest Arrests

**COLUMBUS** – Today, Columbus City Attorney Zach Klein outlined the steps his office is taking to review the charges filed as a result of protests on police brutality following the death of George Floyd.

“My office is working diligently to collect the evidence we need in order to review the cases of those arrested,” said Klein. “I want to acknowledge the hundreds of emails I have received demanding an immediate, blanket release of arrested individuals and dismissal of all charges. I respect those calls for action, and we have followed our bail policy accordingly. As for the charges themselves, I believe we have an obligation to look at each case individually to see exactly what has been alleged and the severity of the conduct that occurred.”

From Thursday until Sunday, 81 people were arrested for crimes related to the protests according to data from the Columbus Police. Thirteen individuals were charged with felonies and 68 defendants were charged with misdemeanors, which fall under the City Attorney’s jurisdiction. The 68 misdemeanants were charged with the following, resisting arrest, disorderly conduct, failure to disperse, riot, curfew violations, traffic violations, and failure to comply.

The City Attorney’s Office requested that the court release on recognizance bonds (ROR) offenders not alleged to have engaged in violent behavior who did not first post bond on their own. The request is consistent with the office’s policy eliminating cash bail in lieu of ROR bonds for non-violent offenses, implemented in June 2019.

Klein has requested that the Columbus Police Department provide expedited evidence regarding the protests, including all body camera footage related to arrests. City Attorney Klein has appointed Deputy Chief of Staff of Prosecution Melanie Tobias to work with him on all related cases to ensure uniform assessment. The pair will review each case to ensure that charges are levied only when clear, compelling evidence exists, and it’s in the interest of justice to do so.

“Our work doesn’t stop here,” said Klein. “These nationwide protests have magnified the systemic injustices faced by the Black community. We owe our citizens proactive reforms to change the culture of justice in our city, and I’ll be releasing my recommendations soon.”

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