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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Wednesday, July 11, 2018
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Columbus City Attorney Sues to Shut Down Troubled Short North Business

'High Five Carry Out' lived up to its name as an epicenter for alcohol infractions, intimidation, intoxicated misconduct, violent assaults and weapons violations

COLUMBUS, OH—Today, Wednesday, July 11th, 2018, Columbus City Attorney Zach Klein announced that the City of Columbus filed a complaint for preliminary and permanent injunctive relief against an establishment accused of employing “unlawful and irresponsible business practices” that have plagued the Short North with a litany of disturbances, including a “constant presence of highly intoxicated individuals drinking and loitering.”

City Attorney Klein’s office filed the lawsuit in the Franklin County Environmental Court against the High Five Carry Out, also known as the High Five Spice Emporium, and its owner Jehad Jallaq of Galloway, Ohio. The property is located at [1178 North High Street](#), just south of Fifth Avenue.

According to court documents, Columbus Police have responded to the premises approximately 150 times in the past year and a half for calls that included property destruction, fights, disturbances, suspicious persons, trespassers, open container violations, public intoxication, persons with weapons, assault and battery. Officer testimony indicated that the High Five Carry Out accounted for as many as one-third of all calls for service in the entire precinct, draining police resources that could have been directed to other community needs in the area.

The City of Columbus formally objected to the renewal of High Five’s liquor permit last December and the Ohio Division of Liquor Control sustained the city’s objection on June 21, 2018. However, per state law, the store was able to continue selling alcohol at the premises until all their rights of appeal have been exhausted.

“This carryout was true menace to the Short North community and surrounding businesses as evidenced by the number of concerned citizens and business owners who are planning to attend tomorrow’s court hearing,” said Columbus City Attorney Zach Klein. “From selling meth pipes and ‘Natty Daddies’ to underage customers, to a victim being assaulted with a hookah, to a report of a store employee helping an assailant stab a victim with a pair of hedge clippers, this case had it all.”

Some of the evidence the City Attorney’s office plans to present in court include:

- On July 17, 2017, police responded to the premises on a reported assault and found a victim who was subsequently transported to a hospital after being hit in the face with a “steel hookah object.”
- On July 21, 2017 police responded to another reported assault and found two individuals fighting in front of the premises. Both sustained injuries and one had to be hospitalized.
- On August 21, 2017 a “highly intoxicated individual was found unresponsive” in front of the premises and was transported to a nearby hospital.
- On September 19, 2017, an individual was stabbed with a pair of hedge clippers in front of the premises. A witness reported that an employee of High Five “held the victim against the window of the store while the stabbing occurred.”
- On November 9, 2017, police arrested an individual after he “entered the store screaming profanities and assaulted a customer for refusing to buy him a beer.”
- On November 30, 2017, police responded to a report of a man with a handgun tucked into his waist at the premises.
- On January 29, 2018 police arrested an individual with active warrants outside the premises and in March police arrested a man for assault after he punched a store clerk in the face.
- On April 23, 2018 police received a report that an individual refused to leave the premises and threatened to stab a store clerk with a knife. Four days later, police arrested another individual with a knife at the premises and charged him with menacing.
- On May 1, 2018, police responded to a “shots fired” call at the premises. Upon arrival, officers found individuals with a knife and an “airsoft gun.” On May 20, 2018, an individual reported to police that she was assaulted by a store employee.
- On May 31, 2018, police found a store clerk and a customer outside the premises in a “fighting stance.” The customer was swinging a glass liquor bottle at the clerk as both refused to comply with the officers’ orders to stop fighting. An officer used mace to “subdue the situation” but the customer ran away, “almost getting run over by a car.” The customer was charged with assault, obstruction of official business and for other charges stemming from an active arrest warrant.
- In April, city inspectors found a number of health, fire and code violations at the premises. Inspectors also found evidence that the High Five was selling meth pipes and other drug paraphernalia at the premises as well as selling tobacco without a license.
- Store employees have been criminally charged at least six times for selling “Natty Daddy” 25 ounce cans of beer and other alcohol to underage individuals. The owner, Mr. Jallaq, also faces criminal charges filed by the Ohio Department of Taxation for operating without a retail license.

The hearing is being held in the Franklin County Environmental Court tomorrow, July 12, 2018 at 12:30 p.m.

“With the prospect of this business continuing to sell alcohol during the pendency of the appeals process, we felt compelled to take further legal action to shut them down,” said Assistant City Attorney Katarina Karac. “We’re hoping to finally come to a resolution in this case and want to thank the community for their diligence and assistance.”

A copy of the city’s [complaint](#) is available online.