

VIOLENCE NEAR LEGACY LOUNGE -DISTRICT THREE-

The Team:

District Three NLU, Ohio Investigative Unit, City Health, Building, Fire, and Law Departments, Camp Washington Community Council, Neighborhood businesses and stakeholders

Scan:

In early 2024, District Three officers responded to shooting incident where several people were shot by a suspect with a rifle at 2927 Colerain Avenue, Legacy Lounge. This was not the first violent incident to occur at this location. In 2021, the property operated as a coffee lounge, receiving a liquor permit for on-site consumption in March of the same year. The City believes that in 2022 and 2023, the property began to operate as a nightclub in the evenings.

Analysis:

Over the first half of 2023, concern for disorder and violence at this property escalated.

Since July 1, 2023, three individuals have been shot within 1 block of the property, including at least one incident where it is suspected that shots were fired inside the club. Concurrently, this liquor permit premises was cited for violations of Ohio liquor law six different times between July 1, 2023, and August 9, 2024.

Response:

Early in the project, District Three coordinated an inspection, which resulted in concerns for Health, Buildings, Fire, Law, and Police Departments.

District Three objected to renewal of the liquor license in March of 2024. Afterward, the City and representatives of the business entered into a negotiated settlement agreement in April of 2024. Settlement agreement terms included compliance with applicable liquor law, and agreement to surrender the liquor permit if certain liquor law violations occurred. The agreement also required operators to maintain all required licenses and

permits, and to maintain the property free from litter and debris.

Following this, a shooting occurred on May 5, 2024, and an underage sale of liquor occurred in June of 2024, and again in July of 2024. Late in July, the City sent a default notice requesting surrender of the liquor permit. This was rejected.

On August 9, 2024, the City Law filed a Public Nuisance lawsuit.

A police detail was established, and uniform police directed patrols were implemented to triage short term concerns. With additional police attention, several arrests were made, and three firearms were recovered. One arrest was of an armed employee who was prohibited from possessing a firearm.

District Three noted that the bar used armed security, including individuals who carried rifles for site security. Further investigation revealed that these individuals were not properly licensed through the state of Ohio to perform the functions of an armed security guard.

Following the public nuisance action, the operators forfeited their liquor license and the operation has ceased. The building is closed and not in operation today.

Assessment:

Following the Nuisance lawsuit in August 2024, there has only been one violent offense 2900 – 2950 Colerain Ave, a robbery directly in front of Legacy Lounge. The bar had not yet been closed when that offense occurred. There have been no violent incidents in the first six months of 2025, and only 3 property offenses (2 TFAs and 1 Burglary/BE).