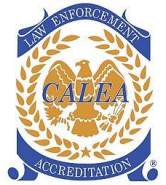




# Columbus Police Department

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **CPD Addresses Disruptive Behavior Impacting Local Businesses**

The Columbus Police Department is aware of ongoing issues involving groups of unsupervised minors gathering in Uptown and other business areas across the city during evening hours.

While many young people are enjoying their summer break responsibly, officers and business owners have seen ongoing incidents involving disruptive behavior, trespassing, fights, and social media-driven disturbances inside businesses. In several cases, businesses have closed early because of the disruptions.

This behavior will not be tolerated.

These ongoing incidents affect employees, customers, families, and local businesses working hard to serve the community. Many businesses operating during late evening hours are not intended for unsupervised minors. Parents and guardians are strongly encouraged to know where their children are, who they are with, and to avoid dropping them off without supervision.

Often, these disturbances can quickly escalate into more serious incidents. Early intervention and parental involvement remain critical in preventing larger problems before they occur.

The Columbus Police Department will continue working closely with business owners and increasing officer presence in impacted areas across the city. Individuals involved in criminal activity or disruptive behavior will be held accountable. Parents and guardians will also be held accountable under local and state law when appropriate.

We want everyone to enjoy their summer safely and responsibly. Columbus should remain a place where residents and visitors feel comfortable supporting local businesses and spending time with family and friends. Maintaining that environment requires cooperation from everyone.

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