



Columbus City Attorney Richard C. Pfeiffer, Jr.

eNewsletter

Volume 2, Issue 3

December 2012



In This Issue:

[On the Air](#)

[A Look Back](#)

[Meet the Staff](#)

[Citizen Action](#)

A Word from City Attorney Pfeiffer

As always, I hope you find our e-newsletters useful and informative as we highlight the different aspects of the City Attorney’s office and report on the accomplishments of our staff members.

In this edition we are taking a look back at some of the notable events and achievements over the past year, such as in June when we hosted a seminar on illegal “bath salts” and other illicit drugs in conjunction with the Franklin County Sheriff’s office. Well over 100 prosecutors, advocates, judges, probation officers, members of law enforcement and other government officials across the state attended the free, four-hour course on current drug trends, terminology and paraphernalia. The seminar was approved by the Ohio Supreme Court, allowing attorneys who attended to earn credit toward their continuing legal education requirements.

We were proud to work with the Ohio Attorney General's office and the Ohio Peace Officer Training Academy (OPOTA) to host a series of Domestic Violence Update courses for law enforcement personnel throughout the state as well.

We also added a new television program, *Fugitive Files*, to go along with our documentary series *Just the Facts*. We greatly appreciate working with Mayor Coleman’s administration, especially Stefphanie Harper and the C-TV crew, in helping us develop and produce these public service programs.

While reflecting, it is especially important to note the recent passing of a true gentleman who worked tirelessly and selflessly to improve his community, our city, and the greater Central Ohio region. It was with much sadness that we learned that Mr. William “Bill” Adams passed away unexpectedly in the evening of November 15, 2012. Mr. Adams was an amazing individual whose infectious smile always brightened the mood wherever he went and whose passionate advocacy for veterans, students, and neighborhoods was unparalleled.



He will be sorely missed but we know his legacy will live on through his family, friends, and the countless number of people whose lives were positively impacted by his kindness, compassion, and dedication.

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In This Issue:

[On the Air](#)[A Look Back](#)[Meet the Staff](#)[Citizen Action](#)

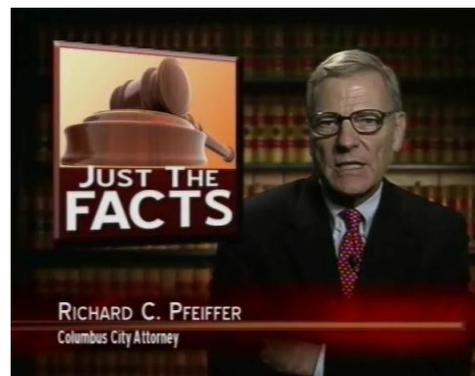
Taking to the Airwaves

Fugitives on the run and buildings imploding may seem like standard fair for the myriad crime dramas airing nightly on TV, but they are also the real life subject matter of two types of programs produced by the City Attorney's office in collaboration with Columbus-TV (CTV).

A new episode of the City Attorney's documentary series, [Just the Facts](#), is now joined on the Columbus airwaves by a brand new show called [Fugitive Files](#). Both programs are currently airing on Channel 3 (Insight and Time Warner) and Channel 99 (WOW and AT&T U-Verse). They are also available for direct viewing online and on YouTube.

In the latest edition of [Just the Facts](#), City Attorney Pfeiffer takes viewers on a tour of Columbus and talks with a variety of individuals to explain how our attorneys work with partners in the public and private sectors to help eliminate blight—from abandoned homes in neighborhoods to large-scale brownfield sites.

In particular, the documentary focuses on what used to be some of the larger public nuisances in Columbus—including Poindexter Tower, Lockwood Apartments, and an abandoned former Howard Johnson hotel on the far east side—and features some of the community groups, public officials, and private companies that work with the City Attorney's office through the oftentimes complex and time-consuming legal process required to properly abate nuisances.



Thousands of arrest warrants are issued in Franklin County each year, continually adding to a growing list of individuals whose actions lead to an open warrant for their arrest. Some fail to appear in court for a summons or fail to comply with a judge's orders; others violate the terms and conditions of probation or refuse to pay restitution, fines, and/or court costs.

In response to the daunting task of trying to bring so many individuals to justice, the City Attorney's office began producing [Fugitive Files](#), a broadcast version of their outstanding warrant program. Bill Hedrick, chief of staff for the City Attorney's office, originally created the warrant program on City Attorney Pfeiffer's behalf and hosts the television version. Hedrick previously expanded the initiative to include social media to communicate and obtain information on individuals with arrest warrants.

The hope is that [Fugitive Files](#) builds upon the success experienced with the social media-driven "Fugitive of the Week" feature to continue educating the public about outstanding warrants and alerting the community about the potential danger of individuals who ignore or disobey orders of the court.

For his efforts, Hedrick was nominated for an award that recognizes government employees who "creatively utilize technology, community resources or partnerships to improve service delivery or customer service."

A Look Back at 2012

December 2012



City Attorney Pfeiffer attended the ceremony for 61 members of the January 27, 2012 graduating Firefighter class, one of the largest recruit classes ever.



Columbus kicked off the Bicentennial celebration with a ceremony at Dodge Park Recreation Center in March.

In This Issue:

[On the Air](#)

[A Look Back](#)

[Meet the Staff](#)

[Citizen Action](#)

In July, Councilmember Zach Klein invited City Attorney Pfeiffer to join him at Capital University Law School to help inspire gifted high school students participating in the statewide Law and Leadership Institute program.



Assistant City Attorneys Kristen Kroflich and Jaiza Page joined Mr. Pfeiffer in giving a presentation to the very inquisitive Law and Leadership Institute students.



A photo of the *Nuestro Padrino Award* that City Attorney Pfeiffer received from the Ohio Hispanic Coalition in October.



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In This Issue:

[On the Air](#)

[A Look Back](#)

[Meet the Staff](#)

[Citizen Action](#)



Robert Tobias, Director of our Prosecution Resources Unit, gave a presentation on criminal trespassing to the public and private sector members of the Capital Crossroads and Discovery District special improvement districts (SIDs) in April.

A special thanks to Lisa Defendiefer, Deputy Director of Operations & Advocacy for the SIDs, for inviting Robert and providing the picture.



Scenes from the City Attorney's symposium on "bath salts" and other illicit drugs held on June 15.

As Mr. Pfeiffer stated, "it is important for law enforcement to try to stay ahead of the curve on drug trends as well as help prepare prosecutors and other court personnel for what types of cases to expect in the future."

Above, Anne Murray, Director of the Domestic Violence and Stalking Unit, is being interviewed by local TV prior to seminar.





CTV producer Andy Stout filming b-roll footage at the abandoned former Howard Johnson hotel for the *Just the Facts* documentary in June.

In This Issue:

[On the Air](#)

[A Look Back](#)

[Meet the Staff](#)

[Citizen Action](#)

Demolition of Poindexter Tower began in October.



Chief of Staff Hedrick and City Attorney Pfeiffer visiting the *Dinin' Hall* food truck cafeteria in July.

Community Kitchen CEO Carol Trowbridge was a very gracious host as City Attorney Pfeiffer and some members of his staff were in the neighborhood and stopped in unannounced to say hello.



In August, City Prosecutors worked with CPD to shut down this illegal after-hours club that operated in a residential neighborhood next to an assisted living center for seniors

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Staff from our Domestic Violence and Stalking Unit attended the CHOICES Annual Peacemakers Luncheon in October to help support victims of domestic violence.



In This Issue:

[On the Air](#)

[A Look Back](#)

[Meet the Staff](#)

[Citizen Action](#)



Assistant City Prosecutor Shawnda Martin (right) attended the celebration honoring Kerry Manion (left) for his 30-years of service to the Capital Area Humane Society in November.

Assistant City Attorney Kristen Kroflich, Justin Boggs, and Chief of Staff Hedrick at the South Ogden Avenue Blockwatch National Night Out event in August.



Chief of Staff Hedrick saying hello to Linda Henry at National Night Out.



Robert Tobias giving a tour of the Municipal Court to a group of students interested in pursuing a law career.





In This Issue:

[On the Air](#)
[A Look Back](#)
[Meet the Staff](#)
[Citizen Action](#)

Meet the Staff

City Attorney Pfeiffer created the Zone Initiative in 2008 to address quality of life issues affecting Columbus neighborhoods through criminal and civil litigation. It's called the Zone Initiative because it is designed around the Columbus Police Division's organization of the city into five zones. An Assistant City Attorney is assigned to each of the zones to work closely with the Division of Police, the Division of Fire, Code Enforcement, the Health Department, community groups and residents to identify and address public nuisances that blight our neighborhoods.

We now have two new Zone attorneys: Assistant City Prosecutor Bill Sperlazza in Zone One and Assistant City Attorney Kristen Kroflich in Zones Three and Five. Bill Sperlazza is originally from the Mahoning Valley area and came to Columbus to attend law school at the Ohio State Moritz College of Law. He was serving as an Assistant City Prosecutor prior to being assigned to also cover Zone One. Bill also handles all liquor permit objections and hearings on behalf of the city. Bill applies a blue-collar work ethic to his job as an attorney and appreciates the fact that the cases he works on can have an immediate, tangible effect for Columbus residents. Shutting down a nuisance boot joint or closing down a dangerous bar by objecting to its liquor license makes communities safer and improves the quality of life for neighborhoods.



Bill Sperlazza

Title: Assistant City Prosecutor
Education: Ohio State University
 Moritz College of Law, J.D.
 Youngstown State University, B.A.
 Girard High School, Girard, Ohio



Kristen Kroflich

Title: Assistant City Attorney
Education: Capital University Law School, J.D.; Ohio University Eastern, B.A. and M.S.W.
 Buckeye Local H.S., Rayland, Ohio

Born and raised in Yorkville, Ohio with a population of around 1200 people, Kristen Kroflich became the first college graduate in her family when she received her undergraduate degree in Psychology and Communications from Ohio University Eastern in St. Clairsville, Ohio. Kristen then earned a Master's degree in Social Work and began working with children in the Ohio Valley before coming to Columbus to attend Capital Law School. She has hit the ground running after being named a Zone attorney and she feels fortunate to be able to use her social work background and legal training to help foster community development.

Both Bill and Kristen find working with people in the community and members of CPD to be one of the most rewarding aspects of serving on the Zone Initiative.

Whether it is abandoned and deteriorating houses, open dumping, illegal after-hours clubs, excessive noise or trash and debris, Bill and Kristen and the rest of the Zone team seek to eliminate these problems. If you are aware of these types of public nuisances, reference the map and information on the next page to contact the Zone attorney for your area.

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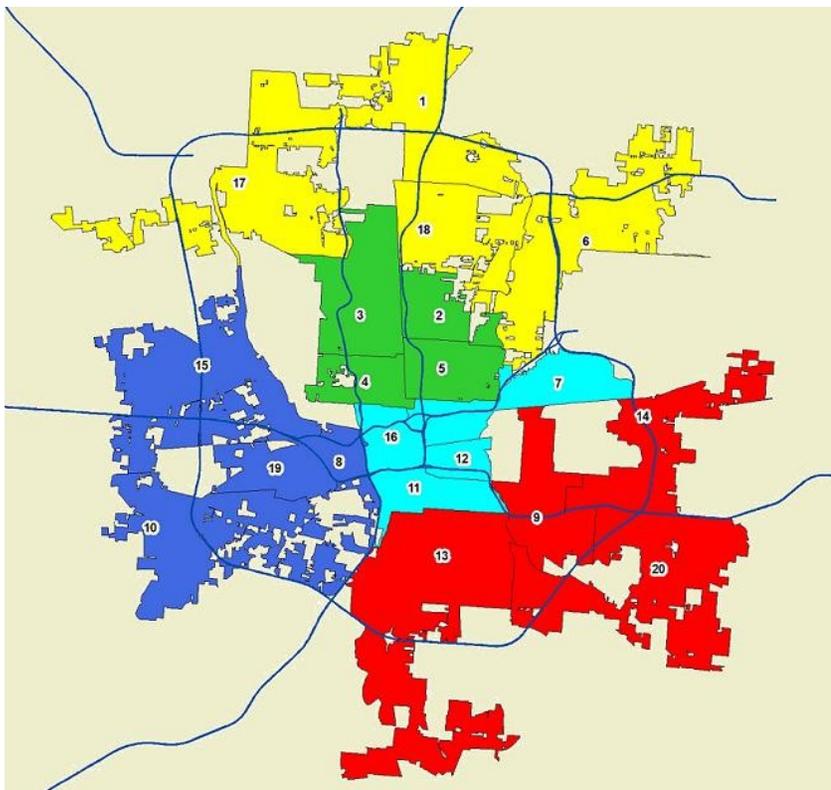
In This Issue:

[On the Air](#)

[A Look Back](#)

[Meet the Staff](#)

[Citizen Action](#)



ZONE ONE

Bill Sperlazza

645-7479

wasperlazza@columbus.gov



ZONE TWO

Jaiza Page

645-8619

jnpage@columbus.gov



ZONES THREE & FIVE

Kristen Kroflich

645-8928

kmkroflich@columbus.gov



ZONE FOUR

Steve Dunbar

645-4438

sdunbar@columbuspolice.org

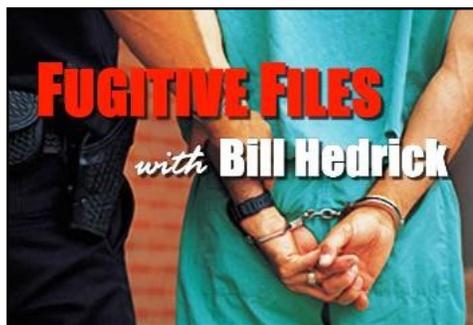
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Citizen Action

Watch the current of episode of [Fugitive Files](#) and help catch some of the most wanted serial thieves in Columbus. These are individuals with current outstanding warrants who have had at least 10 prior convictions on theft-related charges.

Anyone with information on any of the individuals highlighted in [Fugitive Files](#) should contact Assistant City Prosecutor Bill Hedrick at 614.645.8874 or brhedrick@columbus.gov



In This Issue:

[On the Air](#)

[A Look Back](#)

[Meet the Staff](#)

[Citizen Action](#)

WANTED



**JAYCEE
PAPUCHIKE**

DOB: 11/2/1973 (Age 39)
 Height: 6'0" Weight: 200
 Hair: Black Eyes: Hazel
 Last Known Address:
 Streets of Columbus
 Past Charges: 23

ARRESTED



**MICHELLE
O'HARRA**

DOB: 1/16/1970 (Age 42)
 Height: 5'9" Weight: 120
 Hair: Red Eyes: Blue
 Last Known Address:
 151 Buena Vista Ave. Cols, OH 43228
 Past Charges: 11

WANTED



**MARGARET
ROBINSON**

DOB: 7/1/1957 (Age 55)
 Height: 5'4" Weight: 155
 Hair: Brown Eyes: Brown
 Last Known Address:
 3152 Agler Rd. Cols, OH 43219
 Past Charges: 28

WANTED



**BENNIE
MOBERLY II**

DOB: 5/1/1975 (Age 35)
 Height: 6'0" Weight: 220
 Hair: Brown Eyes: Brown
 Last Known Address:
 407 Weymouth Ln. Cols, OH 43228
 Past Charges: 20

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