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## **Theft Stats Drop in Columbus for First Time in Six Years**

**COLUMBUS, OH**—Columbus City Attorney Richard C. Pfeiffer, Jr. released information today on the misdemeanor theft charges his office filed in 2016 and the numbers show a host of decreases after setting record highs in several categories the previous year.

The City Attorney's Prosecution Division filed a total of 3625 theft charges last year, a decrease of 21 percent from the 4590 cases filed in 2015. The total value of merchandise stolen decreased 15.6 percent from \$695,527 in 2015 to \$587,198 in 2016. The number of first time offenders caught stealing also dropped significantly last year, plunging 23.4 percent from 875 in 2015 to 670 in 2016.

**“We are encouraged by the number of decreases in the theft stats that we track, especially after the peaks hit in 2015,” said City Attorney Richard C. Pfeiffer, Jr.**

Another statistic that trended lower in 2016 was the number of cases involving thefts over \$500. Since the Ohio Legislature raised the felony theft limit from \$500 to \$1000 in 2012, Columbus prosecutors had seen high dollar misdemeanor thefts more than double to an all-time high in 2015, until dropping 23.7 percent in 2016.

However, two metrics increased last year—and prosecutors believe they are inter-related—as the average value of each theft grew from \$151 in 2015 to \$162 in 2016 and the percentage of cases filed against repeat offenders, also known as serial thieves and professional shoplifters, grew slightly larger from 80.9 percent in 2015 to 81.5 percent in 2016. Eight years ago, 58 percent of theft charges involved repeat offenders whereas over the last three years, roughly four out of five thefts were perpetrated by individuals with prior criminal records.

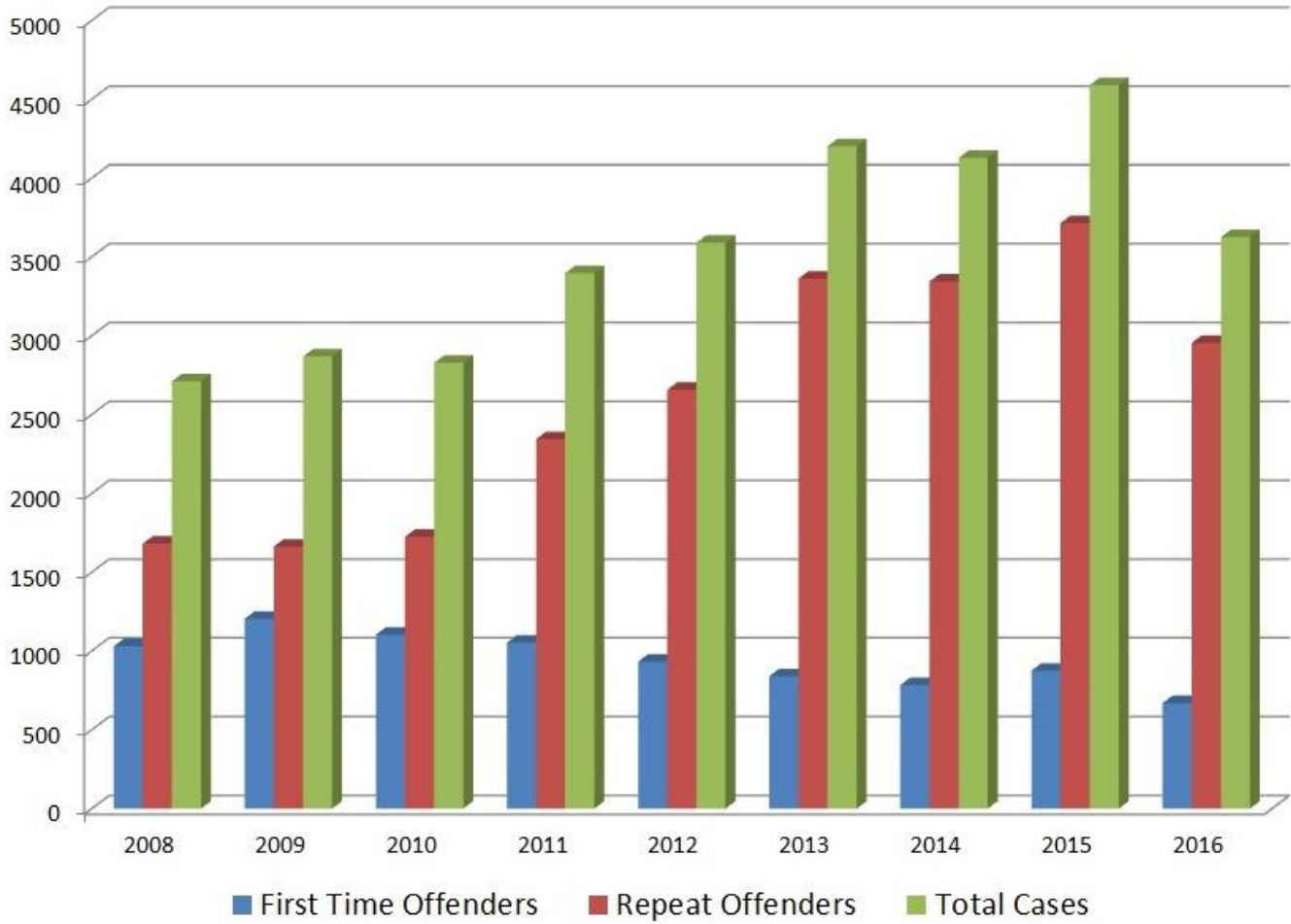
One such thief who has contributed his share to the professional shoplifting statistics is 25-year-old Justin Christian Daye of Columbus' far east side. Daye, known as the “Red Bull Rapsallion,” currently is wanted on 18 arrest warrants after being charged with stealing hundreds of cases of Red Bull energy drinks worth close to \$5000 from retailers across Central Ohio. He is wanted on 16 total counts of theft, two counts of criminal trespassing, and one count of possessing drug abuse instruments.

**“We believe Mr. Daye is part of organized theft ring, as it's unlikely that even the most raging Red Bull junkie is consuming hundreds of cans a day,” said First Assistant City Prosecutor Bill R. Hedrick. “He exemplifies the prevalence of serial thieves in Central Ohio who are stealing large quantities of specific products, presumably for resale on the black market.”**

Daye's past criminal record includes charges of felony theft, receiving stolen property, breaking and entering, falsification with the purpose to commit theft, felony drug abuse, operating a vehicle without a license, and disorderly conduct.

Anyone with information on Justin Christian Daye is asked to contact First Assistant City Prosecutor Bill R. Hedrick at 614.645.8874 or [brhedrick@columbus.gov](mailto:brhedrick@columbus.gov).

## Misdemeanor Theft Charges Filed 2008-2016 – Columbus, Ohio



Year	First Time Offenders	Repeat Offenders	Total Cases	Total Value Recovered	Avg. Amount	Cases Over \$500
2008	1030	1681	2711	N/A	N/A	N/A
2009	1205	1663	2868	N/A	N/A	N/A
2010	1103	1725	2828	N/A	N/A	N/A
2011	1053	2344	3397	\$339,411.14	\$99.91	N/A
2012	933	2657	3590	\$422,940.19	\$117.81	134
2013	840	3362	4202	\$539,641.87	\$128.43	168
2014	784	3344	4128	\$566,758.34	\$137.29	204
2015	875	3715	4590	\$695,527.97	\$151.53	270
2016	670	2955	3625	\$587,198.13	\$161.99	206

# WANTED

## The Red Bull Rapscaillon



### JUSTIN CHRISTIAN

## DAYE

**DOB:** 10/30/1991 (Age 25)

**Height:** 5'9" **Weight:** 165

**Hair:** Brown **Eyes:** Blue

**Last Known Address:**

3811 Wade Rd.

Columbus, OH 43232

**Case Number(s):**

2014 CRB 009830 2016 CRB 007803 2016 CRB 014593  
2016 CRB 014573 2016 CRB 017725 2016 CRB 016230  
2016 CRB 019467 2016 CRB 017726 2016 CRB 019104  
2016 CRB 021319 2016 CRB 021320 2016 CRB 021621  
2016 CRB 021618 2016 CRB 021617 2016 CRB 021321  
2016 CRB 022248 2016 CRB 021619 2016 CRB 021620

**Charge(s):**

2913.02(A1) – Theft (11 counts)

2313.02 – Petty Theft (five counts)

2311.21 - Criminal Trespass (two counts)

2925.12 - Possessing Drug Abuse Instruments