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# RICHARD C. PFEIFFER, JR.

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## Columbus City Attorney

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Arrest Warrants Issued for ‘Cologne Cowboy’ *Ex-con displays obsession for stealing men’s fragrances*

**COLUMBUS, OH**—An obsessive convicted felon, who couldn’t even wait 24 hours after being released from prison to begin stealing again, is the latest “Fugitive of the Week” according to Columbus City Attorney Richard C. Pfeiffer, Jr.

Fifty-two-year-old John Ferris Clark of Columbus’ east side has been dubbed the “Cologne Cowboy” after being charged with stealing over \$1800 worth of high-end men’s fragrances. He currently has five outstanding warrants for his arrest and is the latest case study in a growing trend that prosecutors have called “niche-market” shoplifting.

Authorities continue to see niche market serial thieves specializing in stealing large quantities of very specific products, according to First Assistant City Prosecutor Bill R. Hedrick. Hedrick has documented cases of individuals who strictly stole only *Crest White Strips*, *Downton Abbey* DVDs, *Red Bull* energy drinks, *Dyson* vacuum cleaners, high-end faucets, pick-up truck tailgates, hospital scrubs, red meat and—now—men’s cologne.

Court records indicate that Ferris initially stole \$135 worth of grilling equipment from a far east side supermarket on August 10, 2016—one day after being released from prison after serving nearly a year for felony theft.

But it was a week and a half later when Clark’s real obsession seemed to kick in. According to reports, at approximately 8:00 p.m. on August 21, 2016 Clark stole 11 bottles of cologne, including *Armani Black Code*, *Acqua Di Gio* and *Invictus* men’s fragrances, worth a total retail value of \$715.88 from a Reynoldsburg area supermarket.

Thirty-four minutes later Clark appeared at a Whitehall area supermarket and stole six bottles of cologne, including *Obsession for Men*, worth a total retail value of \$312.94.

Approximately two hours later, at 10:36 p.m. Clark returned to the Reynoldsburg area store he struck earlier in the evening and stole four more bottles of cologne, including *Ralph Lauren Polo Blue*, worth a total retail value of \$235.96.

The following day, Clark returned to the Whitehall area supermarket he struck the previous evening and stole nine more bottles of cologne worth a total retail value of \$569.91.

**“We may be dealing with some compulsive tendencies here, as Mr. Clark stole enough cologne over two days, including three times in a two-and-a-half hour time span, to last years,”** said First Assistant City Prosecutor Bill R. Hedrick. **“He couldn’t even wait 24 hours after being released from prison to begin stealing again.”**

Along with being a convicted serial thief with at least 17 prior theft charges against him, Clark's past criminal record includes breaking and entering, felony receiving stolen property, felony drug possession, felony violation of probation, illegal possession of drug paraphernalia and criminal trespassing.

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

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# WANTED



## JOHN FERRIS CLARK

**DOB:** 5/31/1964 (Age 52)

**Height:** 5'5" **Weight:** 150

**Hair:** Bald **Eyes:** Brown

**Last Known Address:**

1450 Beechwood Ave.  
Columbus, OH 43213

**Case Number(s):**

2016 CRB 020747 | 2016 CRB 021315  
2016 CRB 021316 | 2016 CRB 021317  
2016 CRB 023936

**Charge(s):**

2913.02 – Theft (five counts)