

City Attorney Releases *New Year's Eve* Public Service Announcement

COLUMBUS, OH—As Columbus and the rest of the country prepare to ring in the New Year, City Attorney Richard C. Pfeiffer, Jr. released a [public service announcement](#) warning against a growing trend that has authorities concerned.

Celebratory gunfire, or indiscriminately shooting a firearm into the air in an act of “celebration,” is a crime under [Section 2323.30](#) of the Columbus City Code. It is also an avoidable phenomenon that tragically has claimed the lives of several individuals throughout the United States in the last several years, including Columbus in 2005.

The City Attorney’s office is hoping to be proactive in raising awareness of illegally discharging a firearm into the air in Columbus by delivering a simple, common sense message that “what goes up, most come down.”

“Our office is always looking for new ways to enhance public safety,” said City Attorney Richard C. Pfeiffer, Jr. “We are hoping that our video will help bring more awareness to this issue and perhaps avoid an unnecessary tragedy.”

According to reports, on January 1, 2015 a 43-year-old Texas man was struck on top of his head by a bullet while watching fireworks with his family.¹ On January 1, 2010, a four-year-old boy in Decatur, GA was struck on top of the head and killed by a falling bullet while attending a New Year’s Eve church service with his mother.²

Fifty-four individuals have been charged with illegally discharging weapons in Columbus since 2014.

Spearheading the City Attorney’s PSA program is Chief of Staff and First Assistant City Prosecutor Bill R. Hedrick, who is featured in the [video](#).

“We are trying to do our part in helping deliver public safety messages that resonate year-round, but are particularly important during holiday celebrations,” said First Assistant City Prosecutor Bill R. Hedrick.

Hedrick recently was nominated for a national award for professional innovation through the Office for Victims of Crime, a division of the United States Department of Justice’s Office of Justice Programs.

The PSA may be viewed online on the City Attorney’s [website](#) and [YouTube channel](#).

¹ <http://www.reuters.com/article/2015/01/02/us-usa-texas-death-idUSKBN0KB1B420150102>

² <http://www.wsbtv.com/news/news/falling-bullet-kills-4-year-old-boy-in-dekalb/nFDwr/>