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City Attorney's Office Releases 2013 Theft Stats

Shoplifting charges have surged 55 percent since 2008

COLUMBUS, OH—Columbus City Attorney Richard C. Pfeiffer, Jr. released information today on the misdemeanor theft charges his office filed in 2013 and the numbers show a host of increases when compared to data from recent years.

The City Attorney's Prosecution Division filed a total of 4202 theft charges last year, over 600 more than 2012 and 1491 more than 2008. The total value of stolen merchandise recovered increased from \$422,940.19 in 2012 to \$539,641.87 in 2013. The average value of each theft also increased, from \$117.81 in 2012 to \$128.43 last year.

“Retail theft is a daily battle,” said City Attorney Richard C. Pfeiffer, Jr. “Some estimate that over \$10 billion in goods are stolen from U.S. merchants each year, costs which unfortunately get passed onto consumers.”

One of the few statistics that decreased in 2013 was the number of cases filed against first-time offenders. Five years ago, 42 percent of theft charges involved first-time offenders whereas that number plunged to 20 percent in 2013—meaning four out of five theft cases were perpetrated by individuals with prior criminal charges.

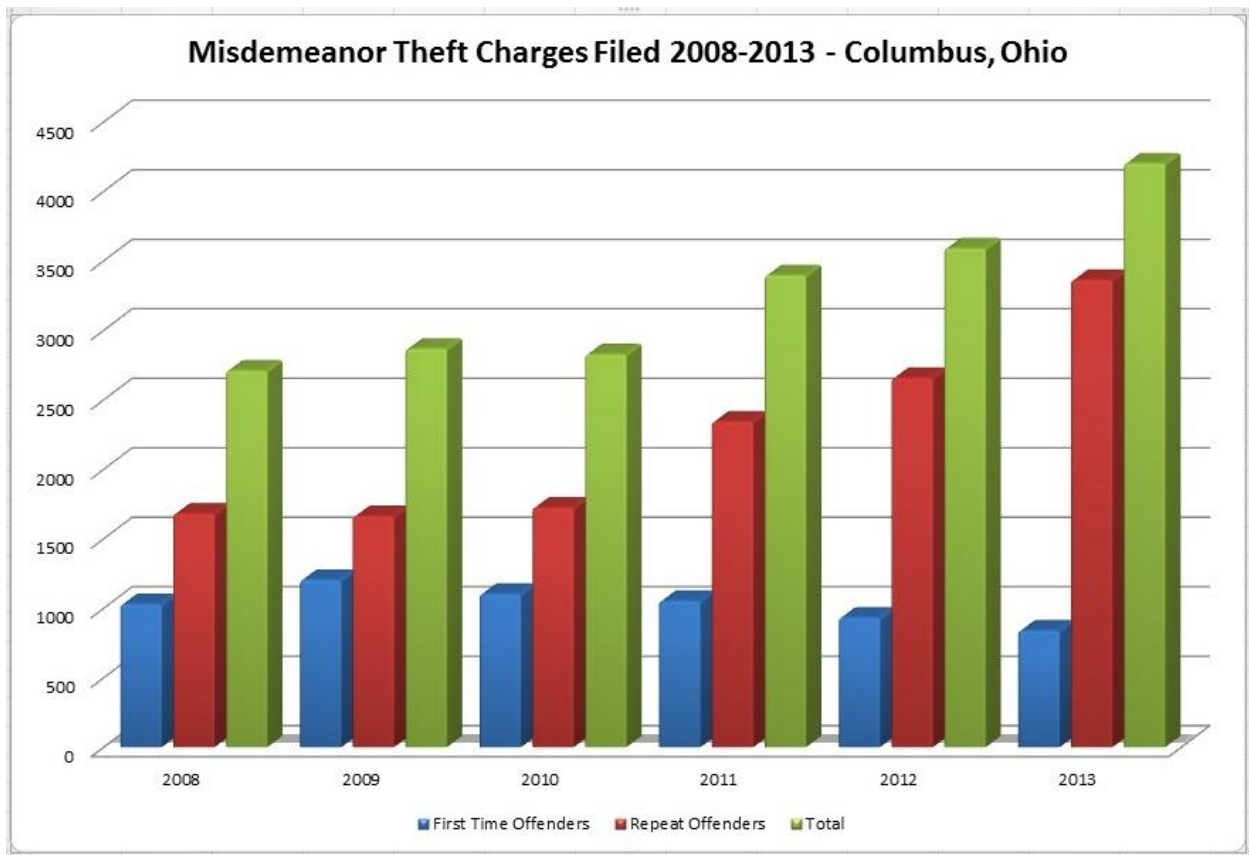
One such serial thief who contributed her share to the rising shoplifting statistics is 23 year old Sarah Anne Campbell. Campbell has seven outstanding warrants for her arrest, all related to theft charges filed against her in 2013. On January 29, 2013 she was caught stealing *Shark Bite* plumbing fittings valued at \$191.04 from a west side Home Depot. On July 17 she was caught stealing \$60.93 worth of kitchen knives from a west side Target. On September 1, she stole a set of *Beats by Dre* headphones valued at \$249.99 from the same Target store and struck again eight days later when she went back and stole a *Jawbone Jambox* speaker valued at \$299.99. That same day, she also stole two more *Jawbone Jambox* speakers valued at \$599.98 from a west side Meijer. On September 27, she went back to that Meijer store and stole two *Jambox Bluetooth* speakers valued at \$479.98. She also was caught stealing a \$176 *Samsung* blu-ray player from a west side Walmart on September 6 and \$155 worth of men's *Nike* shoes from a west side Kohl's store on September 11.

“Many of these serial thieves steal to feed their drug habit,” said Assistant City Prosecutor Bill R. Hedrick. “It's a vicious cycle where they don't work due to drug dependency and extensive criminal records, so they steal, get caught, get released and start all over again.”

Campbell was indicted on felony possession of heroin and crack cocaine charges in July.

Anyone with information on Sarah Anne Campbell's whereabouts is asked to contact Bill R. Hedrick at 614.645.8874 or brhedrick@columbus.gov.

Per state law, the Columbus City Attorney's office prosecutes misdemeanor crimes, not felonies.



Year	First Time Offenders	Repeat Offenders	Total Cases	Total Value Recovered	Avg. Amount	Cases Over \$500
2006	N/A	N/A	2198	N/A	N/A	N/A
2007	N/A	N/A	2192	N/A	N/A	N/A
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

WANTED



SARAH ANNE

CAMPBELL

DOB: 2/21/1990 (Age 23)

Height: 4'11" **Weight:** 110

Hair: Brown **Eyes:** Blue

Last Known Address:

520 Station Rd.
Columbus, OH 43228

Case Number(s):

2013 CRB 023117 | 2013 CRB 023118
2013 CRB 024152 | 2013 CRB 028137
2013 CRB 028140 | 2014 CRB 000533
2013 CRB 002214 (Revocation Warrant)

Charge(s):

2913.02 – Theft (five counts)
2313.02 – Petty Theft (two counts)