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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

City Attorney's *JusticeNet* Program Helps Facilitate Central Ohio Man's Arrest in Georgia

Authorities in Ohio and Georgia coordinate arrest of alleged scam artist

COLUMBUS, OH—A local resident, known as “The Conman Contractor” on both sides of the Mason-Dixon line, is now facing felony theft charges in Columbia County, Georgia following his arrest on July 31 by the Harlem, Georgia Police Department.

Fifty-three-year-old Steve Ressler was originally targeted by Columbus City Attorney Richard C. Pfeiffer, Jr. through the *JusticeNet* program after five arrest warrants were issued against the alleged conman late last year. Ressler was accused of operating a scam where he took down payments from a series of victims for auto repair work he never performed.

“We liken our JusticeNet program—which uses digital, conventional, and social media channels to target offenders—to a virtual blockwatch that can exponentially expand the ‘eyes and ears’ aiding law enforcement,” said City Attorney Richard C. Pfeiffer, Jr.

Pfeiffer's *JusticeNet* program essentially created an all-points bulletin on Ressler by targeting him via the City Attorney's digital wanted poster webpage, electronic newsletter, monthly column in the social justice newspaper *Street Speech*, and television program, *Fugitive Files with Bill Hedrick*.

It was at this point that authorities believe Ressler—whose past criminal history includes charges of receiving stolen property, felony theft, forgery, domestic violence, menacing, unauthorized use of a vehicle, felony drug possession, and multiple counts of felony non-support of dependents—fled to Georgia, avoiding arrest in Columbus.

Investigators were concerned that Ressler was committing multiple scams, as he reportedly portrayed himself as a handyman and concrete contractor on websites such as *Angie's List*, where he was listed as the owner of “Ressler's Concrete & Construction” company, and as an auto repair specialist who owned “Steve's 24-Hour Mobile Service.”

“Mr. Ressler claimed to own a 24-hour repair service, but the only thing he seemed to do in 24 hours was cash your check and run,” said First Assistant City Prosecutor Bill R. Hedrick.

Sources in Harlem, Georgia, including the local police department, found the City Attorney's full-court press on Ressler via the Internet and linked him to two cases where Harlem residents

were conned out of close to \$28,000. Similar to his methods in Columbus, Ressler reportedly requested payments up front but never completed the work.

Harlem authorities started working with Columbus City Attorney chief of staff and first assistant city prosecutor, Bill R. Hedrick, in arranging Ressler's arrest and extradition when it became apparent he was back in Columbus.

Ressler, however, avoided arrest in Columbus by once again fleeing to Georgia, where two felony arrest warrants awaited him following his previous stay there.

Within 24 hours of Hedrick notifying the Harlem Police Department that Ressler no longer appeared to be in Columbus, Georgia authorities were able to locate Ressler and bring him into custody.

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ARRESTED



STEVE
RESSLER

DOB: 5/30/1962 (Age 53)

Height: 6'1" **Weight:** 185
Hair: Brown **Eyes:** Hazel

Last Known Address:
5351 Olentangy River Rd.
Columbus, OH 43235

Case Number(s):
2014 CRB 031845
2014 CRB 031847
2014 CRB 031848
2014 CRB 031844
2014 CRB 031849

Criminal Charges:
2913.02 – Theft (five counts)