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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## ‘One-Woman Crime Wave’ Wanted Again

*Criminal history includes more than 30 prior counts of theft*

**COLUMBUS, OH**—Columbus City Attorney Richard C. Pfeiffer, Jr. announced that serial shoplifter Samantha Brown, a well-known thief who once used her newborn child to conceal stolen merchandise, is the latest “Fugitive of the Week.” Five warrants have been issued for the 36 year old Brown’s arrest, four for violating probation from previous convictions and a new theft charge for a recent incident. She was released from jail earlier in the year.

**“According to the Bureau of Justice Statistics, over two-thirds of released prisoners are rearrested within three years,” said City Attorney Richard C. Pfeiffer, Jr.**

Throughout her career, Brown has employed consistent tactics: she either conceals items she plans to steal in a shopping cart, such as the time she hid items under her infant’s car seat, and bypasses the checkout lines by walking straight out the door; or she removes tags from items inside the store and tries to return them for cash.

In her latest theft incident she combined the two methods. Brown is accused of entering a Lowe’s garden center with an empty shopping cart and exiting the store four minutes later with the cart containing a pond pump, metal arbor and bamboo fountain. Within two minutes she re-entered the store and attempted to return the items, valued at \$285.98, for cash.

In addition to her dozens of theft charges, Brown’s past criminal history also includes charges of domestic violence, assault, forgery, receiving stolen property, falsification, possession of criminal tools, criminal trespass, felony drug possession, identity theft, and felony tampering with records.

**“From shower curtains and *People* magazines to broccoli and buffalo wings, Ms. Brown steals items the same way the rest of us go grocery shopping,” said Assistant City Prosecutor Bill R. Hedrick. “It has become an annual tradition with her: we put her in jail, she does her time, gets out, steals again and we repeat the process.”**

Hedrick has ensured that Brown spent the last several holiday seasons incarcerated and anticipates similar arrangements again this year if she is located.

Anyone with information on Samantha Brown’s latest whereabouts is asked to contact Bill R. Hedrick at 614.645.8874 or [brhedrick@columbus.gov](mailto:brhedrick@columbus.gov).

# WANTED



**SAMANTHA**  
**BROWN**

**DOB:** 2/1/1977 (Age 36)

**Height:** 5'8" **Weight:** 200

**Hair:** Black **Eyes:** Brown

**Last Known Address:**

330 ½ S. Burgess Ave.  
Columbus, OH 43204

**Case Number(s):**

2011 CRB 024817  
2012 CRB 014718  
2012 CRB 015439  
2012 CRB 028916  
2013 CRB 020725

**Charge(s):**

2913.02 – Theft (five counts)  
2921.13 – Falsification