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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Ex-Con Off the Wagon and On the Loose

*Columbus area man currently wanted for stealing meat and margaritas,  
abandoning step-son at the scene of the crime*

**COLUMBUS, OH**—Columbus City Attorney Richard C. Pfeiffer, Jr. announced that convicted felon Shelby L. Bell of the city's Far East side is the latest target of his "Fugitive of the Week" program. The 46-year old Bell, whose criminal history dates back more than 25 years, is currently wanted on an outstanding arrest warrant for petty theft and child endangering.

**"We are hoping the public can help us locate this suspect and bring him to justice," said City Attorney Richard C. Pfeiffer, Jr.**

On June 9, 2012 police responded to a report of two minors abandoned in a vehicle at a grocery store parking lot on S. Hamilton Rd. It was later ascertained that Shelby L. Bell brought his 12-year old step-son and the boy's 9-year old friend to the store where he proceeded to steal \$196 worth of meat products and margarita mix. When store security confronted Bell in the parking lot, he allegedly ran away, leaving the minors and the stolen food behind. According to reports, Bell was contacted and informed that the two boys would be transported to children services if he did not return to the store. Bell refused to come back and purportedly seemed unconcerned about the children's welfare.

**"Mr. Bell must have left his shame behind long before he left those kids behind," said Assistant City Prosecutor Bill R. Hedrick. "I'm still trying to figure out what kind of person brings kids along to watch him steal a cart-full of groceries and then leaves them behind when he's caught."**

Anyone with information on Shelby L. Bell is asked to contact Hedrick, who leads the fugitive apprehension program on City Attorney Pfeiffer's behalf, at 614.645.8874 or [brhedrick@columbus.gov](mailto:brhedrick@columbus.gov).

Bell, who also uses the alias Tony R. Johnson, has a criminal history that includes charges of criminal mischief, multiple counts of theft and robbery, domestic violence, and assault. He spent most of the decade of the 1990s incarcerated.

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

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# WANTED



**SHELBY L.**

**BELL**

**AKA:** Tony R. Johnson

**DOB:** 12/31/1965 (Age 46)

**Height:** 6'1" **Weight:** 240

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

**Last Known Address:**

3710 Beechton Rd.  
Columbus, Ohio 43232

**Case Number(s):**

2012 CRB 014563

**Charge(s):**

2313.02 – Theft  
2919.22(A) – Endangering Children