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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Convicted Felon Accused of ‘Goodwill Hunting’ *Columbus man has stolen hundreds from non-profit retailer*

COLUMBUS, OH—An ex-con who has spent the last 30 years in and out of prison is wanted again, this time being accused of repeatedly targeting a venerable organization whose mission is to help uplift the less fortunate, including those with criminal records.

Columbus City Attorney Richard C. Pfeiffer, Jr. announced that authorities have issued an arrest warrant for Anthony Wayne Armstead after the 52-year-old career criminal was connected to several thefts totaling hundreds of dollars’ worth of merchandise from Goodwill stores throughout Columbus.

According to reports, on May 9, 2015 Armstead entered a Goodwill store on the city’s north side, loaded up a shopping cart full of “new goods and men’s items,” then walked out without paying and emptied the cart into his vehicle. He reentered the store and proceeded to steal an additional nine bed sheet sets and 30 sunglasses.

Armstead returned to the same store the following day and filled up another shopping cart full of items and exited out a back door. Reports estimate that Armstead stole a total of \$699.22 worth of goods in these three incidents.

On September 25, 2015 Armstead struck another Goodwill store, stealing dozens of items, including “jerseys, donated goods, and new goods” totaling approximately \$200.

Armstead eventually pleaded guilty to charges related to his Goodwill heists and was given a six-month suspended sentence by the judge. Armstead, however, apparently couldn’t help himself and is wanted again after being identified as the perpetrator behind the theft of approximately \$150 worth of clothing and electronics from a northeast side Goodwill store on March 8, 2016.

“I’ve been prosecuting cases for close to 20 years and have never heard of anyone stealing from Goodwill before,” said First Assistant City Prosecutor Bill R. Hedrick. “If there were *Academy Awards* for criminals, Mr. Armstead’s version of ‘Goodwill hunting’ definitely would earn him a nomination for most despicable crook in the petty theft category.”

Goodwill uses the proceeds from retail sales to help fund job training, employment placement services and life skills assistance to a variety of individuals, including youth, seniors, veterans, and people with disabilities, criminal backgrounds or other specialized needs.

Armstead’s criminal record in Ohio dates back to 1986 and includes multiple charges of theft, aggravated burglary, robbery, and aggravated robbery, as well as grand theft of a motor vehicle and felony receiving stolen property.

Anyone with information on Anthony Wayne Armstead is asked to contact First Assistant City Prosecutor 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.

WANTED



ANTHONY WAYNE

ARMSTEAD

DOB: 12/19/1963 (Age 52)

Height: 5'10" **Weight:** 155
Hair: Black **Eyes:** Brown

Last Known Address:
4218 Rickenbacker Ave. Apt. 27
Columbus, OH 43213

Case Number(s):
2016 CRB 006524

Charge(s):
2913.02 – Theft