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GRAFFITI VANDAL WANTED IN COLUMBUS LOCATED IN NORTHEAST OHIO

City Attorney's social media initiative brings another offender to justice

COLUMBUS, OH—Columbus City Attorney Richard C. Pfeiffer, Jr. announced that the social media program his office created to enforce outstanding arrest warrants has succeeded again, with the long arm of the law extending 125 miles north of Columbus to identify the location of another profiled fugitive. Matthew Giaimo, 20, of Kent, Ohio becomes the third graffiti vandal to be brought to justice after being targeted through Pfeiffer's new initiative.

"The great thing about our use of cyberspace to identify and locate these offenders is the fact that we are not limited by physical space," said City Attorney Richard C. Pfeiffer, Jr.

The *Record-Courier*, a newspaper based in Kent, published a front page article today about Giaimo after he was featured in the City Attorney's digital "Fugitive of the Week" program for his 2008 arrest for tagging garbage bins and garage doors in Columbus. Giaimo initially appeared in court on December 3, 2008 and asked for a continuance in order to hire an attorney. His continuance was granted but he failed to appear at his new court date, leading to the bench warrant for his arrest.

Columbus prosecutors suspected Giaimo had fled the city soon after his continuance, but their suspicions were confirmed only after Giaimo's hometown newspaper ran the story on his fugitive status. After seeing the *Record-Courier* article this morning, Giaimo's family contacted an attorney, who made arrangements with the City Attorney's office for Giaimo's surrender.

"Graffiti is an important issue for those who have been plagued by it and we take this matter very seriously," said Assistant City Prosecutor Bill R. Hedrick, who leads the fugitive apprehension program on Pfeiffer's behalf. **"Let this be a lesson to other graffiti vandals: neither time nor space could keep Giaimo from our reach."**

The *Record-Courier's* article can be read here:
<http://www.recordpub.com/news/article/5051976>

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