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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Authorities Searching for Hospital Scrub Scofflaw

Suspect accused of stealing close to 50 hospital scrubs, motive remains unclear

COLUMBUS, OH—Columbus City Attorney Richard C. Pfeiffer, Jr. announced that a 24 year-old Johnstown woman wanted on five outstanding arrest warrants is the latest target of his “Fugitive of the Week” program. Katie Neal is wanted on a total of eight misdemeanor counts, five for allegedly stealing dozens of hospital scrubs and two for passing bad checks, along with two felony drug charges.

“Statutorily, our office can handle only misdemeanor charges,” said City Attorney Richard C. Pfeiffer, Jr. “However, last year’s new state law increased the threshold for misdemeanor theft from \$500 to \$1000.”

The charges that have prosecutors searching for a motive are related to a series of thefts of Cherokee brand hospital scrubs from various Meijer stores in the Columbus area.

On September 8, 2011 Neal allegedly stole eight scrubs valued at \$148 from a Cleveland Avenue Meijer. The next day she reportedly stole four more scrubs valued at \$74 from the same store. On September 13, 2011 Neal was accused of stealing 12 scrubs with a total value of \$231 from a Hamilton Rd. Meijer. On September 15, 2011 Neal was caught allegedly stealing 23 scrubs valued at \$451 from a Meijer store on E. Broad St.

“We are aware of all sorts of unexpected items being sold on the black market, but hospital scrubs seem a bit surprising even to me,” said Assistant City Prosecutor Bill R. Hedrick, who leads the fugitive apprehension program on Mr. Pfeiffer’s behalf. “I doubt there are nurses and doctors out there looking for a five-finger discount on the scrubs they wear.”

Hedrick is concerned about the possibility that stolen scrubs may be used by individuals trying to disguise themselves as staff members while attempting to steal from area hospitals and nursing homes.

Neal’s past criminal charges include: felony tampering with evidence, felony drug possession, and drug paraphernalia in Newark in 2010; theft in Lancaster in 2011; and felony drug possession in Columbus in 2011, for which she received one year of probation and a 178-day suspended sentence according to records.

Anyone with information on Katie Neal, who also reportedly uses the alias Katie Inskeep, is asked to contact Bill Hedrick at 614.645.8874 or brhedrick@columbus.gov. Neal reportedly drives an older model blue Chrysler Voyager minivan with a rusted top.

As always, the subjects of the City Attorney’s “Fugitive of the Week” program are strongly encouraged to seek legal counsel and turn themselves in. The [Columbus Bar Association Lawyer Referral Service](#) can be reached at 614.221.0754 and the [Franklin County Public Defender’s Office](#) can be reached at 614.525.3194.

WANTED



KATIE NEAL

(AKA Katie Inskeep, Katie Garnet Neal, and Katie Garnet Inskeep)

DOB: 3/29/1988 (Age 24)

Height: 5'5" **Weight:** 125

Hair: Red **Eyes:** Brown

Last Known Address:

41 Ford St.
Johnstown, Ohio 43031

Case Number(s):

2011 CRB 020976
2011 CRB 023121
2011 CRB 023586
2011 CRB 029825
2011 CRA 024588

Charge(s):

2312.02 – Theft (five counts)
2913.11 – Passing Bad Checks (three counts)
2925.11(A) – Felony Drug Possession/Abuse (two counts)