

Contact: Bill R. Hedrick Phone: 614.645.8874 Email: <u>brhedrick@columbus.gov</u> FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Fugitive Wanted on Four Arrest Warrants Charges include beating his two-year old nephew and assaulting his

elderly grandmother

COLUMBUS, OH—Columbus City Attorney Richard C. Pfeiffer, Jr. announced that 25 year-old North side resident Paul Andrew Thomas is the latest target of his "Fugitive of the Week" program. Thomas is wanted for failing to appear in court in four separate cases against him involving a total of nine criminal counts, including aggravated menacing, domestic violence, assault, endangering children, and criminal damaging.

"We're hoping the public will be able to help us track down Mr. Thomas," said City Attorney Richard C. Pfeiffer, Jr. "This is an individual who potentially poses a threat to those around him."

Two of Thomas' outstanding warrants are related to reported physical abuse of family members. In the first case, an investigation determined that Thomas used excessive physical discipline against his nephew while babysitting on April 18, 2011. As a result, assault and child endangering charges were filed. His nephew was two-years old at the time of the incident.

On October 27, 2011, police were dispatched on a domestic violence call after Thomas allegedly assaulted his grandmother during an argument over a leftover turkey sandwich. Thomas purportedly spit on his grandmother, pulled her hair, slapped her in the face, and threatened to kill her as she tried to back away from him in her motorized house scooter. He fled the scene before police arrived but charges of domestic violence, assault, and menacing were filed against him.

"The allegations—if they are true—are absolutely appalling," said Assistant City Prosecutor Bill R. Hedrick, who leads the fugitive apprehension program on Pfeiffer's behalf. "An individual who is reportedly capable of physically abusing family members, especially a toddler and an elderly grandmother, could be a danger to anyone who comes into contact with him."

The other warrants for Thomas' arrest stem from earlier charges of drug abuse and obstructing official business, along with a 2009 incident when a female victim accused him of shattering a beer bottle against her car after a verbal argument.

Anyone with information on Paul Andrew Thomas, whose last known address is 6258 Faircrest Road, should contact Bill Hedrick at 614.645.8874 or <u>brhedrick@columbus.gov</u>.

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 <u>Columbus Bar Association Lawyer</u> <u>Referral Service</u> can be reached at 614.221.0754 and the <u>Franklin County Public Defender's Office</u> can be reached at 614.525.3194.

WANTED



PAUL ANDREW THOMAS

Last Known Address: 6258 Faircrest Rd. • Columbus, OH 43229

> **DOB:** 3/23/1986 (Age 25) **Height:** 5'10" **Weight:** 170 **Hair:** Brown **Eyes:** Hazel

Case Numbers: 2006 CRB 017658 • 2009 CRB 009518 2011 CRB 011526 • 2011 CRB 024896

Charge(s): 2903.21 – Aggravated Menacing 2919.25 – Domestic Violence (two counts) 2903.13 – Assault (two counts) 2919.22(A) – Endangering Children 2309.06 – Criminal Damage/Endangering 2921.31 – Obstructing Official Business 2925.11 – Drug Abuse