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Most Wanted Graffiti Vandal in Columbus Arrested

Pfeiffer tracked down fugitive using social media

Columbus, Ohio—Columbus City Attorney Richard C. Pfeiffer, Jr. announced that the top target in his initiative to sweep up some of the city’s most wanted graffiti vandals has been apprehended. Kyle C.J. Lamblez, wanted for his third charge of graffitiism in less than two years, was arrested by the Columbus Police Division’s Strategic Response Bureau after a three-week manhunt.

Pfeiffer began the search for Lamblez during the launch of a new initiative using social media channels to help apprehend individuals with outstanding arrest warrants. After introducing their “Fugitive of the Week” profile a month ago on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#), the City Attorney’s office said that Lamblez represents the third targeted offender brought into custody by the program. Lamblez had been wanted for over a year and a half.

“We live in a rapidly changing digital environment and we have to be ready to adapt new methods of communication and social interaction into crime fighting tools,” said City Attorney Richard C. Pfeiffer, Jr.

With City Council and several members of the community placing added emphasis on the crime of graffitiism, City Attorney Pfeiffer instructed his office to pursue wanted vandals such as Lamblez. Individuals charged with other misdemeanor crimes under Columbus municipal code are also being targeted using the social media initiative.

“We want to send a message to these scofflaws: while we may be tracking you down in virtual reality, your criminal acts will have real world consequences. We will find you and you will go to jail,” Pfeiffer said.

Within a matter of months in 2008, Lamblez was arrested twice, once for tagging an animal hospital, and pleaded guilty to charges of 2309.27 – Graffitiism. As a condition of his second guilty plea, Lamblez was incarcerated and required to perform 300 hours of community service at the county landfill upon his release from jail. However, before he spent even one hour at the

landfill, he was arrested a third time for graffitism. Lamblez failed to appear in court for the latest charge and a bench warrant was issued for his arrest.

After Pfeiffer's staff posted information on Lamblez on the City Attorney's [Facebook](#) page April 27 of this year, a tip spurred the investigation that also used Twitter and other more obscure social networks. Once Lamblez was initially traced to his place of residence and connected to other known associates, he began eluding the Strategic Response Bureau by going from one safe house to the next according to City Prosecutor Bill R. Hedrick, who leads the "Fugitive of the Week" initiative on Pfeiffer's behalf.

"Criminals like Kyle Lamblez think graffiti is art, but the only artistic expression he'll be enjoying for the foreseeable future is marking off his days in jail," said Hedrick.

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