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Columbus Sees New Twist on 'Tailgating'

COLUMBUS, OH—While Buckeye Nation may be renowned for its extensive tailgating on fall Saturdays, one Columbus resident is giving a whole new meaning to the word.

In naming 66-year-old career criminal Michael Anthony Luquest Harrington his latest "Fugitive of the Week," Columbus City Attorney Richard C. Pfeiffer, Jr. is hoping to alert the public to a unique crime trend that has arrived in Central Ohio after spiking in other parts of the country: stealing tailgates off of pickup trucks.

"Once we started researching this somewhat unusual crime, we found a report indicating that two-thirds of all reported tailgate thefts occurred in Texas, California, and Arizona," said Columbus City Attorney Richard C. Pfeiffer, Jr.

According to a 2014 insurance industry report, a black market has grown for tailgates as the cost to replace or repair them could be upwards of \$3000 for newer model trucks equipped with backup cameras and other electronics in their tailgates.

Harrington, of the city's east side, has a warrant for his arrest after he was caught with four stolen tailgates.

In an incident from last year, police interrupted Harrington as he was stealing a Dodge Ram tailgate in Clintonville at approximately 4:30 in the morning. Harrington fled as officers approached and was apprehended after a brief chase. Police searched Harrington's van and found three more tailgates, including two from Ford F-150s whose owners subsequently were identified by investigators.

Harrington, who has spent the past four decades in and out of jail, uses at least four different aliases and five different dates-of-birth. His criminal record dates back to at least 1975 and includes multiple charges of grand theft, unauthorized use of a vehicle, passing bad checks, receiving stolen property, obstructing official business, forgery, falsification, tampering with serial numbers, tampering with records, criminal trespass, possession of criminal tools, felony theft, felony drug abuse, and breaking and entering.

"Mr. Harrington seems to be mellowing out a little bit, as he's gone from stealing entire vehicles to just taking their tailgates," said First Assistant City Prosecutor Bill R. Hedrick. "But I still wouldn't invite him to a tailgate party—the temptation might be too much for him."

Anyone with information on Michael Anthony Luquest Harrington—who also uses the aliases William Henry Harrington, William Michael Harrington, Mike Harris, and Michael Henderson—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



MICHAEL ANTHONY LUQUEST

HARRINGTON

AKA: William Henry Harrington, William Michael Harrington, Mike Harris, and Michael Henderson

DOB: 8/18/1949 (Age 66)

Height: 6'3" **Weight:** 170 **Hair:** Black **Eyes:** Brown

Last Known Address: 1680 E. Maynard Ave. Columbus, Ohio 43219

Case Number(s): 2015 CRB 011405

Charge(s):
2313.02 – Theft
2913.51 – Receiving Stolen Property (two counts)