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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Prosecutors Ponder: Sarcasm or Stupidity?

Layers of irony bring unwanted attention to accused criminal

COLUMBUS, OH—Most thieves are not criminal masterminds. The manner in which they steal and the reasons why they steal are usually pretty simple and straightforward. Occasionally, however, authorities are left to wonder if there's something more behind a criminal act. Such is the case of 32-year-old ex-con Donald Hurley, as prosecutors are asking: was it parody, performance art, or merely a combination of coincidence and unwise choices?

According to reports, Hurley is accused of stealing a wireless home security system valued at \$229.99 from a retailer on Columbus' far east side.

Hurley brought attention to himself by initially attempting to break open a box containing a Swann security system in plain sight. After failing, he exited the store briefly before returning with a knife he retrieved from his car. He proceeded to use the knife to cut open the box and shove the security components down his pants.

“He stole a security system, in theory, to keep other thieves from stealing items he’s already stolen,” said Columbus City Attorney Richard C. Pfeiffer, Jr.

Hurley further brought attention to himself by wearing a conspicuous t-shirt that brazenly proclaimed, *“[t]his is what awesome looks like.”*

“If you show up to steal something while wearing a t-shirt that announces ‘this is what awesome looks like’ I think people are going to notice,” said First Assistant City Prosecutor Bill R. Hedrick. “Compound that with the fact that he stole a home security system and I am left to wonder, is this a thief with a flair for satire or does irony just completely escape him?”

A warrant was issued for Hurley's arrest after he failed to comply with several summonses to appear in court to answer the theft charge filed against him.

Hurley's past criminal record includes charges of DUI, disorderly conduct, criminal trespass, felony possession of heroin, felony possession of cocaine, felony possession of marijuana, and felony probation violation.

Anyone with information on Donald Hurley 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



DONALD
HURLEY

DOB: 10/21/1983 (Age 32)

Height: 5'10" **Weight:** 149
Hair: Brown **Eyes:** Brown

Last Known Address:
72 W. Coshocton St. Apt. D
Johnstown, Ohio 43031

Case Number(s):
2015 CRB 022119

Charge(s):
2313.02 – Theft