

Thief Turning ‘Trash’ into Treasure

Seven arrest warrants issued as ‘Trash Bag Bandit’ strikes local retailers

COLUMBUS, OH—A professional thief whose 30-year criminal career has alternated between habitually stealing and being incarcerated has been named the latest “Fugitive of the Week” by Columbus City Attorney Richard C. Pfeiffer, Jr.

Sixty-year-old Deborah Ann Foster has been incarcerated at least a dozen times since 1984 for a range of charges that has included felony theft, grand theft larceny, complicity to robbery, theft by deception, check forgery, receiving stolen property, criminal trespassing, possession of criminal tools, assault, and solicitation. Now she is wanted on seven new arrest warrants after being charged with 11 total counts of theft and criminal trespassing.

Foster also uses as many as 10 different aliases and has added a new moniker to her list—the *Trash Bag Bandit*—due to her recent penchant for using white *Hefty* trash bags to steal over \$2000 worth of clothes from local retailers.

“Retail theft is estimated to cost U.S. merchants up to \$13 billion a year and those costs are typically passed on to the consumer,” said Columbus City Attorney Richard C. Pfeiffer, Jr.

On 2-19-2016, Foster stole 20 items of children’s clothing, including girl’s skinny jeans and leggings, valued at \$565.99 from a Polaris area retailer by stuffing the clothes into a “white trash bag” and walking out of the store.

On 3-3-2016, Foster stole 15 items of children’s clothing, including boy’s hoodies, onesies, and cardigans, valued at \$267.56 from a Dublin area retailer by stuffing the clothes into a “white trash bag” and walking out of the store.

On 3-26-2016, Foster stole 10 items of men’s clothing valued at \$360.46 from a Polaris area retailer by stuffing the clothes into a “white trash bag” and walking out of the store.

On 8-26-2016, Foster stole two Puma track suits valued at \$200.07 from a Polaris area retailer by pulling the items off the rack and walking out of the store. Reports do not indicate why she eschewed her normal strategy and left the white trash bag behind in this instance.

On 8-30-2016, Foster stole 14 items of children’s clothing valued at \$162.86 from a Polaris area retailer by stuffing the clothes into a “white trash bag” and walking out of the store.

On 9-19-2016, Foster stole 15 items of children's clothing valued at \$395.58 from an Eastland area retailer by stuffing the clothes into a "white trash bag" and walking out of the store.

On 10-3-2016, Foster stole an Adidas jacket and pair of pants valued at \$100 from a Polaris area retailer by stuffing the clothes into a "white trash bag" and walking out of the store.

"I don't know why she thinks this is such a good method of stealing, but it's safe to say, if you're at a store and you see someone whipping out a *Hefty* trash bag and stuffing it full of clothes, you've probably just encountered Deborah Foster," said First Assistant City Prosecutor Bill R. Hedrick.

Anyone with information on Deborah Ann Foster, whose aliases include Darlene Broady, Debra Ann Brody, Deborah David, Deborah Ann Davis, Deborah Poindexter, Linda Foster, Linda Reed, Michelle Hetzer, and Pamela Ferguson, 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.

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WANTED

The Trash Bag Bandit



DEBORAH ANN FOSTER

Also Known As: Darlene Broady, Debra Ann Brody, Deborah David, Deborah Ann Davis, Deborah Poindexter, Linda Foster, Linda Reed, Michelle Hetzer, and Pamela Ferguson

DOB: 4/9/1956 (Age 60)

Height: 5'4" **Weight:** 170

Hair: Black **Eyes:** Brown

Last Known Address:

1494 N. High St. Apt. 3-K
Columbus, Ohio 43211

Case Number(s):

2016 CRB 004729 | 2016 CRB 005692 | 2016 CRB 007613
2016 CRB 021848 | 2016 CRB 021322 | 2016 CRB 023545
2016 CRB 025291

Charge(s):

2913.02 – Theft (seven counts)
2911.21 – Criminal Trespass (four counts)