

Bob Mollette

3rd Ward Councilman

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March 27, 2006

Jim Kalb, Mayor
728 Second Street
Portsmouth, Ohio 45662

David Kuhn, Solicitor
728 Second Street
Portsmouth, Ohio 45662

Re: **County Seizure of Suspected Drug Forfeiture Houses within in the City**

The local news media reported on March 16, 2006 a house located at 2529 17th Street had been seized by the Scioto County Office under the Public Nuisance Abatement Law because the owner was suspected of selling drugs. The County became the de facto owner of the house and paid the \$1,698.38 in taxes on the house. The house was sold in auction and the County will be reimbursed from the proceeds. The Scioto County Prosecutor stated in the future, the taxes on such properties will be paid out of Drug Money Forfeiture Fund from his office.

On March 21, 2006, it was reported a house at 1027 13th Street which had been confiscated last year under the Public Nuisance Laws after the owners were accused of selling drugs. The house was deeded by the courts to the County Commissioners as fiscal agents for the Prosecutor's office. The property was sold to the Portsmouth Intercity Development Company.

Please inform and educate Council on this practice and provide information if the City may exploit this process.

Respectfully,



Bob Mollette, 3rd Ward Council

rwm

cc: Mark Kuhn, Scioto County Prosecutor
Trent Williams, Auditor
Council (5)
Charles Horner, Police Chief
Jo Ann Aeh, Clerk (Record)