

# Bob Mollette

## 3<sup>rd</sup> Ward Councilman

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Correspondence#: 07-053

October 8, 2007

Jim Kalb, Mayor  
728 Second Street  
Portsmouth, Ohio 45662

Re: **Reported Thefts Concern for Recycling Scrap Metal**  
**Reported Nuisance at 1232 17<sup>th</sup> Street Residence**  
**Reported Nuisance at 1225 Albert Street Residence**

At the May 29, 2007 Regular City Council Meeting I reported, as a result of constituents' complaints concerning the theft of aluminum and copper from various residences, a suggestion for discussion and evaluation on the merits of instituting a practical and enforceable regulation to curb that type of theft. Recently, a theft of the exterior air conditioning unit (coils) from a local church has occurred twice (photograph enclosed). It also appears this has occurred at the vacant residence of 1225 Albert Street (photograph enclosed). The ability to obtain and maintain a junk yard license is referenced in the City of Portsmouth Codified Ordinances Chapter 737. The Ohio Revised Codes Chapter 4737 "Secondhand Dealers and Junk Yards" require records of transactions. Other cities have acknowledged this problem and are taking steps, through legislation, to help minimize the problem. This legislation will require dealers to collect additional information, maintain records and keep metals on hand. These additional steps could help victims get their property back and allow the police to make stronger cases against thieves. Additional information may also be obtained at the Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries, a national trade group.

A nuisance has been reported at the residence of 1232 17<sup>th</sup> Street (photograph enclosed). The nuisance involves a black dog allowed to run at large, noxious odor of excreta, collected solid waste in the back yard, which includes garbage bags on the ground, loose plastic, and pile of mulch, weeds and vines. The front yard has a blanket, broken plastic stanchions, and a front yard without grass. This residence was previously reported on January 23, 2007, in correspondence #07-005. At that time the issues were investigated by the Health Department and Public Service Department and actions taken. The City should take appropriate action to avoid repeat incidences that abuse our limited resources.

A nuisance has been reported at the residence of 1225 Albert Street (photograph enclosed). The nuisance involves the unsecured openings in the vacant house and the degraded exterior condition. It appears the unsecured openings may be the result of a scrap metal/junk theft of the air conditioning unit (coils).

Please consider this a sincere appeal to involve the appropriate departments to identify and solve our problems concerning the theft of scrap metal and the reported nuisances.

Respectfully,



Bob Mollette, 3<sup>rd</sup> Ward Advocate and Representative on City Council

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cc: w/enclosure

Honorable Council Members  
David Kuhn, Solicitor  
Trent Williams, Auditor  
Jo Ann Aeh, Clerk (Record)



1225 ALBERT STREET

2007 10 7



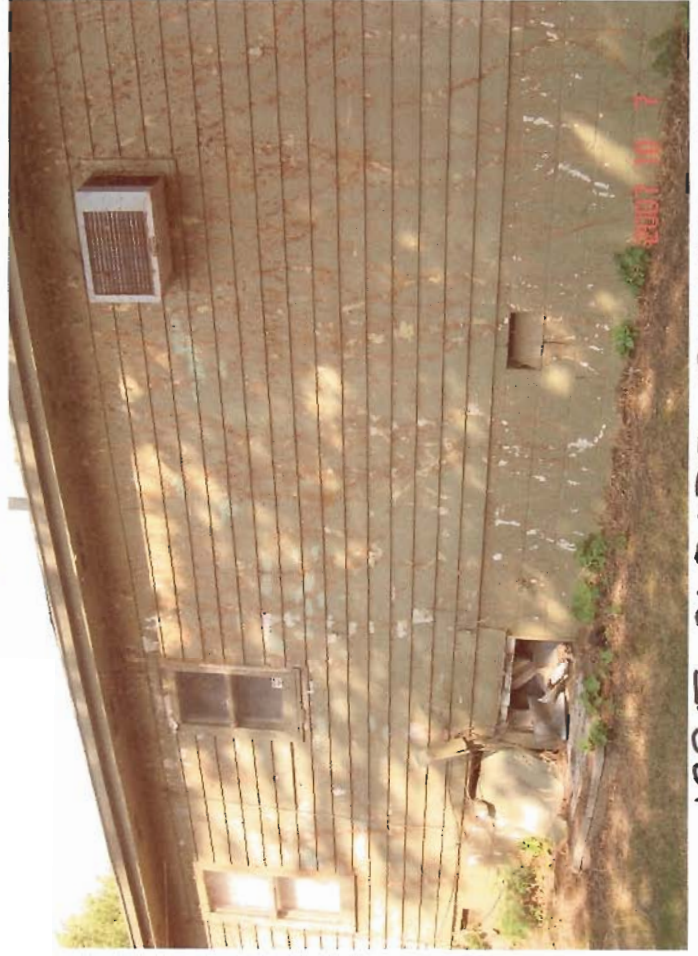
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1225 ALBERT STREET

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