



**KELLER J. BLACKBURN**  
*Athens County Prosecuting Attorney*

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**ACPO PRESS RELEASE**

From: Keller J. Blackburn, Athens County Prosecuting Attorney

Date: May 2, 2014

***FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE***

***Former Nelsonville City Fire Chief Pleads Guilty to Theft Offense***

Richard D. Russell, Jr., 49, of Nelsonville, Ohio, appeared on May 2, 2014, for the purpose of a change of plea hearing. A Bill of Information was filed for (1) count of Petty Theft, a misdemeanor of the first degree, in case number 14CR0199.

The Court sentenced Russell to two (2) years of non-reporting probation. Additionally, Russell was sentenced to one hundred and eighty (180) days local incarceration suspended upon the condition that he remains law abiding during the two (2) year probationary period. Russell is required to pay restitution in the amount of \$309.00 to the City of Nelsonville as well as seek counseling.

Prosecutor Blackburn reports that “on April 15, 2014, Russell did admit to using City funds to purchase a truck part from Advanced Auto Parts that was for his personal vehicle.”

This case was investigated by the Athens County Prosecutor’s Office.