



OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF POLICE

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DRUG INVESTIGATION LEADS TO SEARCH WARRANT AND ARRESTS

ATHENS, TENNESSEE – April 29, 2019 – On April 24, 2019, the Athens Police Department and McMinn County Sheriff's Office assisted the 10th Judicial District Drug Task Force in serving a search warrant at 806 Delmar Street. The search warrant stemmed from a lengthy investigation into the sale of illegal drugs taking place at this location.

Upon entering the residence, officers encountered over a dozen individuals, including several juveniles. Some of individuals fought with the officers or attempted to flee the area. Officers also located two individuals in the house with outstanding arrest warrants. Ahsante Smith had an outstanding warrant for state probation violation and failure to appear warrants. Dorian Simpson had outstanding warrants for aggravated assault, evading arrest, and resisting law enforcement officers.

Crystal Sales, who was in the house when officers entered, resisted officers as they attempted to serve the warrant. She was also arrested.

In addition to the wanted individuals, officers also located approximately three pounds of cannabis and a bag of ecstasy pills. A firearm and cash that is believed to be drug proceeds were also seized.

Chief Couch, of the Athens Police Department said "People shouldn't have to live near drug dealers. Over the past year, the police department has greatly increased our enforcement efforts regarding this type of activity. This particular case demonstrates the benefit of Athens' membership in the Drug Task Force and our commitment to work with our fellow law enforcement officers at the Sheriff's Office. Drug dealers in our area need to know that the APD, McMinn County Sheriff's Office, and the Drug Task Force will continue to work together to shut down these drug houses. This won't be the last."

City Manager C. Seth Sumner stated, "These are exactly the results we hoped for when I asked the City Council for more resources to aid in our fight against crime. The stronger partnerships, and better tools we have added over the past year is producing a world of difference in making the Friendly City a safer, cleaner community. We can all take pride in that."

###