



OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF POLICE

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MAN ARRESTED FOR IMPERSONATING A POLICE OFFICER

ATHENS, TENNESSEE – November 14, 2019 – On Tuesday, November 12, 2019, officers from the Athens Police Department were dispatched to the area of Decatur Pike and Dennis Street in reference to a man who was possibly impersonating an officer.

Officers made contact with a woman who advised that she was at a red light on Decatur Pike when a man in a Dodge pickup truck pulled up next to her and blew an airhorn at her. He exited the vehicle, came to her window, and advised that he was an officer with the Athens Police Department. He then accused her of using her cell phone while driving and told her to follow him to the Wal Mart parking lot where he would take enforcement action. Instead of following the man there, the woman called law enforcement.

Officers proceeded to the Wal Mart parking lot, where they located a truck and man (identified as David Dodson) fitting the description. Although he denied speaking with the aforementioned woman, officers found that he had been arrested previously for impersonating a police officer. They also found that his truck was equipped with a siren box and various lights. He also had a generic "Security" badge, radio with public safety channels, and handcuffs inside the truck with him.

Chief Couch, of the Athens Police Department, said "people place a great deal of trust in their police department, and we take that very seriously. We don't want anyone out there to be able to misuse that trust for their own ends. All Athens Police Officers are supposed to carry an APD badge and Identification Card with them, even if they aren't wearing a uniform. If anyone ever has doubts that they're dealing with a real police officer, they should ask to see these credentials. They should also remember that they can always call 911 if they feel uncomfortable or suspicious."

Mr. Dodson was arrested for Criminal Impersonation and turned over to the McMinn County Jail.

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