



## OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF POLICE

### PRESS RELEASE

#### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

#### OFFICERS TREAT DRUG OVERDOSE WITH NARCAN AND LOCATE NUMEROUS DRUGS

ATHENS, TENNESSEE – December 30, 2019 – On December 30, 2019, Officers from the Athens Police Department responded to the Ingleside Hotel on South Congress Parkway in reference to a possible drug overdose.

Upon arrival, officers located a 30-year-old female who was unconscious and exhibiting symptoms consistent with an opioid overdose. Officers also located one man in the room (later identified as Patrick Potter). Mr. Potter advised that there were numerous other people in the room at the time of the overdose, but they had all left prior to the officers' arrival. He told officers that he had administered a dose of Narcan to the female prior to their arrival, and he was unsure whether anyone else in the room had done so as well.

Having assessed the situation, the officer on scene administered a dose of Narcan, and the female revived. Officers later determined that the female had overdosed as a result of using heroin and fentanyl.

Athens Police Officers and Firefighters began carrying Narcan approximately one year ago, in an effort to be prepared to handle opioid overdoses. Narcan is a substance that helps counteract the effects of an opioid overdose.

During the investigation of this incident, officers located various prescription pills and a substance suspected to be heroin/ fentanyl.

The investigation is ongoing and will likely result in criminal charges.

Chief Couch, of the Athens Police Department, said “these are very dangerous substances that represent a very real threat to our officers, medical personnel and the people who use them. Over the last several years, the Athens Police Department and our partner agencies have been very proactive in addressing the drug issues in Athens. We’ve joined the Drug Task Force, added drug detecting canines to our force, and re-focused our priorities toward combatting this problem. This year we’ve closed down numerous drug houses and made far more drug arrests than in prior years. It’s obviously not enough. Our community has a lot more work to do toward addressing drug issues in Athens.



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