

Two Persons Arrested After Impersonating Officers

November 13, 2012

On Saturday, November 10, 2012 at approximately 7:30 AM, Sheriff's Deputies responded to the area of Stowers Road in North Hall in reference to an automobile theft and an assault.

Upon arrival, Deputies learned that the victim had been stopped by what he initially thought was an unmarked law enforcement vehicle (a white Chevrolet Tahoe) with a flashing blue light. The victim stated that once he stopped, he was approached by two of the vehicle's occupants, who then assaulted him and fled the scene with his Jeep Wrangler. The victim sustained minor facial injuries that did not require treatment.

During the course of the investigation, Sheriff's Investigators were able to identify one of the suspects. On Monday, November 12th, Investigators located the victim's vehicle along with two of the suspects at the North Pointe apartment complex on Thompson Bridge Road.

Investigators arrested 40 year-old Richard Chambers and 39 year-old Stephanie Bolding, both of Gainesville, without incident. Both subjects were booked into the Hall County Jail, where they are awaiting first appearance, charged as follows:

Richard Lamar Chambers: Battery, Robbery by Force, Theft by Taking Motor Vehicle (felony), Possession of a Firearm by a Convicted Felon, Impersonating a Police Officer.

Stephanie Sheri Bolding: Robbery by Force, Theft by Taking Motor Vehicle (felony), Impersonating a Police Officer.

Additional person(s) are believed to have been involved in the incident, and more arrest(s) are expected. This incident remains under investigation by the Hall County Sheriff's Office, Criminal Investigations Division.

*** We would like to emphasize the following safety recommendations regarding unmarked vehicles: Many law enforcement agencies, including the Hall County Sheriff's Office, utilize a variety of vehicles, some of which are unmarked and do not resemble traditional police cars. If a citizen believes they are being stopped by a vehicle displaying emergency lights that might not be a legitimate law enforcement vehicle, the recommended course of action is as follows:

- 1) Turn on your vehicle's four-way flashers or "hazard lights."
- 2) Turn on your car's interior dome light (if at night) or roll down your window and signal to the officer behind you that you are proceeding forward.
- 3) Proceed at a normal rate of speed to a well-lit, populated area such as a shopping center, etc. where there are a lot of people present.
- 4) While doing so, safely dial 911 and inform dispatch of your location and your vehicle description, explain the situation and inquire as to whether or not any of their officers are attempting to stop you.

5) If the dispatcher advises you that the stop is legitimate, stop as soon as you safely can, follow the officer's instructions and then calmly explain the reason for your actions.

6) If the dispatcher advises you that the stop is not legitimate, stay on the phone with them until a local patrol unit can catch up to you, while continuing at a normal rate of speed. Do not stop until what you know to be a legitimate officer is on the scene. Remain in your vehicle and follow the instructions of the legitimate officer.

*** Bear in mind that dispatch may not have radio contact with officers from all agencies that may have occasion to be in that jurisdiction, who might also have a legal reason to conduct a traffic stop. This shouldn't change your course of action; it is simply an issue that will have to be verified once the local jurisdiction is on scene.