



Ardmore Police Department

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Man Arrested on Impersonation Charges

In the early morning hours of Friday, April 24, 2009, Ardmore Police Officers arrested 23-year old James Howard Johnson pending charges of two counts of falsely personating a peace officer, unauthorized use of a motor vehicle, and possession of a firearm while in commission of a felony.

The arrest was made after separate overnight incidents in which Johnson allegedly represented himself as a police officer. Witnesses stated that Johnson was seen to be driving a maroon Ford Crown Victoria belonging to the Oklahoma State Medical Examiner's Office. The car was clearly marked with official State of Oklahoma decals, and equipped with interior-mounted emergency lights. Johnson was said to be wearing a dark t-shirt printed with police insignia, as well as a holstered semi-automatic pistol at his side.

At least one victim reported that Johnson "pulled him over" as he was parking in his own driveway by activating the Medical Examiner vehicle's emergency lights. He said Johnson identified himself as "Officer Collins," and said he was stopping the victim and his mother (a passenger in the car) because it was late at night and he wanted to check for possible drug activity. This occurred in the 300 block of G Street Northeast at approximately 4:45am. Johnson left the area a short time later, allowing the victims to go about their morning.

Earlier in the evening another victim reported that she was approached by a man driving a maroon Medical Examiner's vehicle as she pulled into her driveway. She said the driver told her that he "clocked her going a little fast," and that she needed to slow down. The man then quickly left. The victim's younger brother was riding in the car at the time and later identified the would-be officer as James Howard Johnson. The victim told officers she thought it was strange that a Medical Examiner's unit would be equipped with radar devices.

Nobody was harmed during either encounter.

The investigation led officers to the Ardmore residence of State of Oklahoma Deputy Medical Examiner Leroy Johnson. Johnson's marked work vehicle was parked in the driveway, and unoccupied. When they knocked on the door of the residence, they were greeted by the suspect, James Howard Johnson, who later told police he had driven his father's state-issued Crown Victoria. It was determined that Leroy Johnson was out of town at the time, and had no knowledge of James Johnson's unauthorized use of the Crown Victoria.

Johnson was arrested and transported to the Carter County Jail at approximately 5:45am.

JOHNSON

