

Fairview Heights Police Department

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[PRESS RELEASE]

[Citizen Complaint]

For Immediate Release

Date: March 12, 2012

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[Fairview Heights, IL]-

On March 7, 2012 at approximately 10:10 pm, an undercover Fairview Heights police officer assigned to a narcotics task force was driving in his undercover vehicle on North Illinois Street at the intersection with Frank Scott Parkway. He had just completed a high-risk detail and was driving an unmarked police vehicle. A passenger car with several occupants pulled up next to him. A man in the car, Arthur Sims, Jr., began shouting at the undercover officer about the type of vehicle the officer was driving. He yelled expletives at the officer and threw something at the officer. The officer heard something strike the side of his vehicle. At the time, the officer had no idea what struck his vehicle and was not sure if this incident was related to the high-risk detail he had just completed.

The officer activated emergency lights in his vehicle and tried to stop the vehicle. He radioed for assistance as he was trying to do so. The suspects continued without stopping. The officer was finally able to get the suspects to stop on Lebanon Avenue at Highway 161 in Belleville. A uniformed officer arrived on the scene simultaneous to the stop.

Arthur Sims Jr., 24 years of age, was arrested and charged with Disorderly Conduct. Andriana J. Sims, 18 years of age, received traffic citations for Failure to Yield to an Emergency Vehicle and No Driver's License on Person. She was released from the scene.

On Thursday, March 8, 2012, Arthur Sims Jr. and Andriana Sims came to the Fairview Heights Police Department to file a complaint against the Fairview Heights Police officer. After briefly explaining their version of events, they were informed that state law

requires they provide a sworn affidavit as to their complaint. They were provided the necessary paperwork, but they refused to provide a sworn affidavit. As of Monday, March 12, 2012, they have not returned and no formal complaint has been filed.

The Fairview Heights Police Department holds all its officers to high ethical and professional standards. Although the formal investigation process legally requires the signed affidavit, we recognize and are aware of the incident and complaint. We have initiated our internal review process and await further information and a sworn affidavit from the Sims.

We recognize the presence of emergency lights in an unmarked vehicle does not provide complete assurance the vehicle is actually an authorized police vehicle. Drivers are reminded when they have doubt, they should continue driving to a well-lit populated location before stopping. In addition, they should call 911 whenever possible while driving to determine the validity of the stop.