



St. Charles Parish Sheriff's Office

Special Services Department

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Greg
Champagne
Sheriff

News Release

Corporal James Grimaldi

Public Information

September 30, 2019

On Sunday, September 29, 2019, just prior to midnight deputies received a complaint pertaining to a possible incident related to someone impersonating a police officer that occurred on I-10 Westbound at Mile Post 215 in St. Charles Parish.

During the investigation, it was learned that a black colored Dodge Charger with dark tinted windows, using red and blue emergency lights, pulled over a vehicle on Interstate 10 for speeding. The complainant described the driver of the alleged emergency vehicle as being a white male, approximately 5'9" to 5'10" tall, approximately 200 lbs, with brown shaved hair on the sides, no facial hair, and was clad in a police style uniform with a police style utility belt. The uniform was described as being royal blue in colored with a star shaped badge, and a blue baseball cap. The complainant did not see any other markings on the uniform, but did notice a large Chinese symbol tattooed on the alleged officer's neck.

The complainant advised that the alleged officer had removed her from her vehicle, claiming that he smelled Marijuana and was going to search her vehicle and her person for drugs.

After questioning the Officer about his inappropriate technique for the search he was performing on her, the complainant advised that the Officer returned to his vehicle and drove away.

If anyone has information related to this incident, they are urged to contact Detective Kevin Tennison at (985)783-1135 or contact (985)783-6807.

Sheriff Champagne would like the public to know, if you have any questions about the legitimacy of an emergency vehicle with no markings pulling you over, consider a few options before stopping:

- Slow down, make sure you are in the right lane if traveling on a multilane roadway, and utilize your emergency flashers so that the operator of the unmarked emergency vehicle knows you see them.
- Call 911 and inform the dispatcher of where you are. Often, they will be able to confirm if the unmarked emergency vehicle is an actual police officer attempting to pull you over.

- If possible, find a populated public area to pull over, such as a gas station, business parking lot, or somewhere where there will be a potential for security cameras and witnesses.