



Morgantown Police Department

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www.morgantownwv.gov



NEWS RELEASE
For Immediate Release

August 30, 2017

“Charges Filed in Road Rage Incident”

At approximately 3:21 p.m. on August 28th, 2017, officers of the Morgantown Police Department responded to a report of a Road Rage disturbance on VanVoorhis Road, Morgantown. As the officer was responding to the scene the call was upgraded to an altercation in progress.

Officers arrived on scene and found an off duty West Virginia University Police Officer separating a male motorcyclist and a female that were reported to have been involved in the physical altercation.

Officers identified both parties involved and took statements from each of them as well as interviewing witnesses to the event. An observer that recorded the incident was identified and a copy of the video was obtained.

The altercation initially started on the interstate where both parties engaged in behavior that would be classified as “road rage”, by yelling and screaming at each other as well as exchanging hand gestures due to driving behavior. They parties followed each other into the Morgantown city limits where it culminated in a direct confrontation on VanVoorhis Rd in one of the travel lanes and the turning lane, obstructing one lane of traffic. The driver of the car, Amber GENERALLY, 21 years of age of Shinnston WV got out of the car and verbally confronted the motorcyclist, William SOTHEN, 63 years of age of Salem WV.

During the verbal confrontation, SOTHEN got off the motorcycle and prevented GENERALLY from getting back into her vehicle. Both parties began struggling with each other in the roadway between the motorcycle and the car. During the physical struggle SOTHEN grabbed GENERALLY around the neck and pushed her to the ground as they moved towards the rear of the vehicle. Both began wrestling in the

roadway, while traffic was flowing. The altercation lasted for several moments until the parties were eventually separated by the Off Duty WVU Police Officer.

On August 29th 2017, the Monongalia County Prosecutor's Office was consulted where it was determined that the charge of battery for the motorcyclist was the appropriate charge in this case. A criminal complaint was filed.

On August 30th, 2017, the Monongalia County Magistrate's Office reviewed the complaint and found probable cause to issue a warrant for SOTHEN for battery.

The Morgantown Police Department is committed to its goal of eliminating criminal activity in our city. Citizens are encouraged to become a “**Partner in Policing**”, by reporting suspected criminal activity to Morgantown Police Department Switchboard at (304) 284-7522. If you need immediate Police attention or a crime is in progress call 911.

Authority

Ed Preston

Chief of Police