

# How to identify, protect yourself from police impersonators

By Katherine R. Dougan

Before the holidays, a lady traveling on Interstate 20 near Clinton one night saw blue lights flashing behind her. She pulled over to the side of the road, and the vehicle pulled over behind her. However, she noticed as soon as two men got out of the vehicle behind her, the blue lights stopped flashing, which she thought was suspicious. As the men approached her car, she thought one of them was holding something in his hand.

She immediately sped away in her vehicle from the scene, calling 9-1-1. Then the other vehicle sped away, continuing west on I-20.

The following week, in an unrelated

instance, the Pearl Police Department arrested a Jackson man for impersonating a police officer. The suspect was driving a black 2016 Kia Soul, with white, flashing lights on the dash and visors when he pulled a driver over on Interstate 20, near Pearson Road at about 9 a.m. that day.

Pearl police were notified of the stop, and, when officers arrived at the scene, they spotted a tactical vest and what appeared to be two handguns in the passenger seat of the suspect's vehicle. The guns turned out to be BB guns; however, they were very realistic and could easily be mistaken for guns.

Luckily, neither impersonation resulted in a victim being harmed.

The Clinton Police Department offers

some guidance and advice for citizens who may wonder what to do if they believe they are being prompted by blue lights to pull over.

Those who wish to impersonate an officer and adorn their car to match have a worldwide marketplace from which to shop for supplies, so citizens should be aware of steps they can take to ensure they are safe when being pulled over.

"It is not uncommon to be pulled over by an unmarked police vehicle," said Lt. Nick Sprowles, head of detectives for the Clinton Police Department.

Lt. Sprowles offers these suggestions:

- If you are being pulled over by a police vehicle, **look to see if it's marked** as a patrol vehicle.

- Do not speed up, but **wait until you are in a well-lit area** to safely pull over. If applicable, stop at a gas station or other nearby business where others are present.

- If you feel that the vehicle attempting to stop you isn't a police officer, **proceed at the speed limit and obey all traffic laws while calling 9-1-1.** Verify with the dispatcher that a sworn law-enforcement officer is conducting the traffic stop.

Drivers can also **turn on their flashers/hazards** as they proceed to a well-lit and/or well-populated area, such as a service station, restaurant or hotel.

The Clinton Police Department can be reached at 601-924-5252.

· Brandon · Clinton · Flowood · Madison · Germantown, TN ·

## CLINTON'S NUMBER ONE REAL ESTATE COMPANY

VISIT US ON THE BRICKS  
108 West Leake St., Clinton 601-925-5500



**MASELLE & ASSOCIATES**

<p><b>Jackson</b> 39A Northtown Rd.</p>  <p><b>\$60,000</b> Lisa Whitley 601-613-3586</p> 	<p><b>Clinton</b> 44 Waterstone Way</p>  <p><b>\$325,000</b> Lashanda Alexander 601-316-5179</p> 	<p><b>Clinton</b> 134 Freeland Lane</p>  <p><b>\$347,900</b> Leah Sandidge 601-540-6086</p> 	<p><b>Raymond</b> 5292 Seven Springs Rd.</p>  <p><b>\$389,000</b> Lashanda Alexander 601-316-5179</p> 	<p><b>Byram</b> 435 Kia Lee Dr</p>  <p><b>\$345,000</b> Dilinda Brown 601-506-9589</p> 
<p><b>Clinton</b> 610 Oakwood Dr.</p>  <p><b>\$176,000</b> Virginia Wyatt 601-955-0211</p> 	<p><b>Terry</b> 1205 Hickory Ln.</p>  <p><b>\$208,600</b> Janie Carter 601-954-7474</p> 	<p><b>Jackson</b> 905 Euclid Ave.</p>  <p><b>\$285,000</b> Jennifer Dougherty 601-460-9279</p> 	<p><b>Brandon</b> 200 Bay Rd.</p>  <p><b>\$249,900</b> Janie Carter 601-954-7474</p> 	<p><b>Clinton</b> 1028 Thompson Dr.</p>  <p><b>\$103,000</b> Jennifer Dougherty 601-460-9279</p> 
<p><b>Clinton</b> 119 Rockbridge Cir.</p>  <p><b>\$239,900</b> Virginia "Sissy" Wagner 601-955-0211</p> 	<p><b>Clinton</b> 222 Shadow Lake Cv.</p>  <p><b>\$129,900</b> Leah Sandidge 601-540-6086</p> 	<p><b>Clinton</b> 617 Merganser Trail</p>  <p><b>\$379,900</b> Mindy Hall 601-631-4144</p> 	<p><b>Yazoo City</b> 2409 E. Clubview Cir.</p>  <p><b>\$105,000</b> Clayton Mcleod/Lisa Hughes 601-906-9540 601-624-5449</p> 	<p><b>Brandon</b> 105 Rankin Rd.</p>  <p><b>\$289,000</b> Clayton Mcleod/Lisa Hughes 601-906-9540 601-624-5449</p> 
<p><b>Madison</b> 834 Harris Ln.</p>  <p><b>\$50,000</b> Sonya Edmond 601-421-4811</p> 	<p><b>Clinton</b> 104 Ellicot Burn.</p>  <p><b>\$207,900</b> Full Circle Team 601-331-5599</p> 	<p><b>Clinton</b> 207 Huntington Hills Dr.</p>  <p><b>\$199,900</b> Full Circle Team 601-331-5599</p> 	<p><b>Clinton</b> 202 Indian Summer Ln.</p>  <p><b>\$229,900</b> Full Circle Team 601-331-5599</p> 	<p><b>Clinton</b> 127 Longwood Dr.</p>  <p><b>\$169,900</b> Full Circle Team 601-573-4748</p> 

· Batesville · Hernando · Oxford · Senatobia · Southaven ·