

Women stopped by ISP trooper are charged in court with drug offenses

Written by George Browning
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Two women driving on the north side of Austin on January 3 attracted the attention of an Indiana State trooper, who ended up arresting them on drug-related charges.

Those taken into custody were identified as Samantha Mullins, 36, North Slab Road, and Janice Chandler, 52, North Whitsitt Road.

The incident occurred at 5:45 p.m., according to a report from the Indiana State Police post at Sellersburg. The officer had been patrolling in the area of Rural Street in Austin when he noticed a vehicle which violated a traffic law at Rural and First Streets.

Once the vehicle was stopped, the trooper related he suspected suspicious activity by the two women.

A search of Mullins resulted in the officer locating a glass pipe, normally considered drug paraphernalia. Searching further, the trooper said he found another pipe as well as evidence of methamphetamine.

The pair was transported to the Scott County Security Center in Scottsburg and incarcerated.

At the initial hearing in Scott Superior Court on Monday, January 10, Mullins was formally charged with maintaining a common nuisance and possession of methamphetamine, both Class D felonies, and possession of paraphernalia, a Class A misdemeanor. Chandler was charged with maintaining and possession of methamphetamine, also D felonies.

Each was originally given a preliminary date of April 8 for a jury trial, but Chandler's date was later changed to February 20 at the request of Chandler's public defender.

Mullins' bail of \$15,000 corporate surety bond or 10% cash was lowered to \$8,000 corporate

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surety/10% cash. Chandler's was not changed from \$15,000 surety, but, via a motion by her public defender, a bail reduction hearing has been scheduled for January 30.