



Eureka Police Department

PRESS RELEASE

Eureka Police Department

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1/06/2011

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Subject: POP Motel Raid Nets 4 Arrests and Loaded Handgun

Contact: Sergeant Steve Watson

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On 1/05/11, at about 10:30 AM, officers with the Eureka Police Department's Problem Oriented Policing Unit (POP) responded to a motel in the 1900 block of Broadway, Eureka after receiving information about heroin sales occurring from a room there. Officers had previously identified the room's occupants as John Allen Eccles (51 of Eureka) and Amanda Jean Siuta (25 of Eureka). Siuta was on searchable probation stemming from a drug related DUI arrest.

When officers knocked on the door, Eccles eventually opened the door slightly but kept the security latch secured preventing it from fully opening. When repeatedly ordered to open the door to allow officers inside, Eccles delayed doing so while Siuta apparently went into the bathroom and flushed the toilette. Believing the suspects may be attempting to destroy or conceal evidence (drugs), officers kicked the door open and detained both in handcuffs.

During a subsequent probation search of the room, officers located evidence of heroin use and sales including two digital gram scales with suspected heroin residue on them, drug use paraphernalia including numerous hypodermic syringes and cooker spoons, hash oil, and illegally possessed controlled prescription medications including Hydrocodone and Norco's (narcotic analgesics). Officers also found a semiautomatic .40 caliber Glock 35 handgun with a fully loaded magazine hidden in a dresser drawer. The handgun was later confirmed to have been recently stolen from a residence in Eureka.

While officers were conducting their search, two individuals came to the room purportedly seeking to buy heroin from Eccles and Siuta. Matthew Michael Hilberg (49 of Eureka) knocked on the door with \$20.00 in his hand. Hilberg, who was on active CDC Parole for transportation/sales of a controlled substance, was searched and found to be in possession of a hypodermic syringe.

Michael James McConachie (61) also came to the room with cash. A records check confirmed McConachie had a misdemeanor no bail warrant for probation violation. He was also searched and found to be in possession of a hypodermic syringe and cooker spoon (for injecting heroin).

Eccles was arrested and transported to the Humboldt County Correctional Facility (HCCF) where he was booked for being a convicted felon/narcotic addict in possession of a firearm, possession of drug paraphernalia, and possession of hypodermic syringes.



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Siuta was arrested and transported to the Humboldt County Correctional Facility (HCCF) where she was booked for being a narcotic addict in possession of a firearm, possession of drug paraphernalia, possession of hypodermic syringes, maintaining a place for drug use/sales, possession of stolen property, and probation violation.

Hilberg arrested and transported to the Humboldt County Correctional Facility (HCCF) where he was booked for unlawful possession of a hypodermic syringe.

McConachie arrested and transported to the Humboldt County Correctional Facility (HCCF) where he was booked for unlawful possession of a hypodermic syringe, possession of drug paraphernalia, and for his warrant.

Anyone with information concerning suspected drug sales activity occurring in Eureka is encouraged to call the Problem Oriented Policing Unit at (707) 441-4373.

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John Allen Eccles



Matthew Michael Hilberg



Michael James McConachie



Amanda Jean Suita

