

EPD CRIME & GANG SUPPRESSION UNIT/HCGTF CONDUCTS GANG ENFORCEMENT SWEEP

On the evening of December 16, 2009, Humboldt County Gang Task Force officers led by the Eureka Police Department participated in a gang sweep targeting local gang members or known associates of gang members and their residences. Around 28 Officers representing multiple agencies including the Eureka Police Department, California Highway Patrol, Humboldt County Sheriff's Office, Ferndale Police Department, Humboldt County Probation Department, and a Federal law enforcement agency participated in the operation.

During the sweep, three teams of gang task force officers conducted targeted enforcement including roving patrols and probation/parole searches at several locations in the greater Eureka area. Officers also served S.T.E.P. (California Street Terrorism Enforcement and Prevention Act) notices on approximately 13 recently validated gang members.

The S.T.E.P. Act (Penal Code 186.20) was passed in 1988 by the California state legislature in order to combat a serious gang threat occurring in cities throughout the state of California. The Legislature recognized California was in a "state of crisis" caused by violent street gangs. Their intent was to "seek the eradication" of criminal street gang activity by focusing upon the organized nature of street gangs and the patterns of their criminal activity. Among other things, the S.T.E.P. Act created gang crime enhancements for certain offenses committed by gang members in furtherance of their gang. S.T.E.P. notices essentially notify gang members that their activities are illegal and active participation in a criminal street gang could subject them to imprisonment in the state prison for a period of up to three years. They are intended to be a powerful deterrent and prosecutorial tool to keep active gang member off the street.

During the sweep, 3 suspects were taken into custody with an arrest warrant requested on a 4th individual for possession of a controlled substance and drug paraphernalia. Additionally, task force officers seized evidence including gang-related paraphernalia, ecstasy, and drug paraphernalia.

The following subjects, not all of whom are gang members or associates, were taken into custody during the course of the sweep:

- Michael Donald Magnuson (age 19) was arrested at a residence in the 2400 block of Hubbard Street, Eureka for possession of controlled substances for purpose of sales, possession of concentrated cannabis, and possession of drug paraphernalia. Around 100 suspected ecstasy pills were seized among other items of contraband.

- Lawrence Douglas Rogers (age 68) was arrested outside a business in the 1300 block of 5th Street, Eureka for a felony warrant alleging transportation or sales of a controlled substance.
- Andreas Sala McDaniel (age 49) was arrested in a parking lot in the 300 block of West 15th Street, Eureka for possession of controlled substances (methamphetamine and heroin) and probation violation. This occurred after one of the roving gang task force teams observed McDaniels making a hand-to-hand drug deal with another male.
- Pamela Ann Bizieff (age 57) was detained and released outside a business in the 1300 block of 5th Street, Eureka for possession of a controlled substance and drug paraphernalia. A warrant request alleging these offenses was later forwarded to the District Attorney's Office.