



# Eureka Police Department

## PRESS RELEASE

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**Eureka Police Department**

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12/07/2011

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Subject: EPD Conducts Transient camp Sweep in Response to Complaints**

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On the morning of 12/07/11, investigators with the Eureka Police Department's Problem Oriented Policing Unit (POP) conducted an enforcement sweep of transient camps located in the greenbelt along the south end of Broadway. This included behind K-Mart and the greenbelt/marshland areas west of Broadway from the 3300-4300 blocks (from Lithia Dodge to the Bayshore Mall). The sweep was in response to on-going complaints the department has received from businesses and citizens concerning problems associated with the illegal campers in these areas. These complaints include illegal dumping/trash disposal, trespassing, breaking and entering, vandalism (holes cut in fences etc.), thefts from vehicles, aggressive panhandling, disturbances/fights, and alcohol/drug abuse.

During the week prior to the sweep, officers posted warning notices advising the subjects to vacate their illegal camps. EPD's Homeless Liaison, Pamlyn Millsap, also accompanied officers during the sweep and offered "linkage and referral" services to those who were contacted. This included giving the individuals information about the local resources and services available to them.

A total of approximately 28 individuals were contacted at numerous illegal camps, 4 of whom were arrested or cited (repeat offenders previously cited or warned). The remainder were given warnings and instructed to remove their camps/belongings. \*Large amounts of scattered and piled trash were located in the vicinity of these camps. Another clean-up crew is scheduled to come through the area in the near future.

The 3 individuals cited and released were each given Notices to Appear for illegal camping and trash dumping (one was also cited for a dog registration violation).

The subject arrested, William Dee Love (age 36), was taken into custody in the greenbelt area west of the 4300 block of Broadway for possession of methamphetamine (1/2 gram) and illegal camping.

*\*John Shelter of the Northcoast Resource Center runs a volunteer clean-up program called "New Directions," which frequently works with the City of Eureka/EPD in cleaning-up these camps. When I last spoke with him in August of this year, he estimated that over the past 1 1/2 years*



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*New Directions has removed approximately **128,000 pounds (64 tons)** of trash from the marshland areas within the City of Eureka.*

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WILLIAM DEE LOVE

