



CITY OF EUREKA

EUREKA POLICE DEPARTMENT

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NEWS RELEASE

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02/07/2012

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Subject: EPD Adds Neighborhood Oriented Policing Investigator to POP Unit

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Interim Chief Murl Harpham is pleased to announce the expansion of the Eureka Police Department's Problem Oriented Policing Unit (POP) with the addition of a new Neighborhood Oriented Policing (NOP) officer effective 2/06/12. The "NOP" position was created and envisioned by Chief Harpham to be a specialized assignment within the POP Unit. The NOP investigator will team up with a reserve officer currently assigned to the unit. Their primary focus will be on solving neighborhood nuisance, crime, and quality of life problems not sufficiently being addressed by standard patrol-based responses.

The NOP investigator will be responsible for identifying, reducing, and eliminating the source of problems resulting in recurrent criminal activity or high numbers of calls-for-service at various locations within Eureka. NOP's responsibilities will include:

- *Problem-solving commercial and neighborhood complaints regarding nuisance and quality of life problems such as recurring loud parties and excessive noise, abandoned/junked vehicles and appliances, drug and grow houses, illegal trash dumping, squatters in abandoned buildings etc.*
- *Transient camp enforcement, clean-ups, and related homeless issues.*
- *Participating in the City's Community Improvement Team (CIT) site inspections as its enforcement arm.*



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- *Enforcement of Eureka's Medical Cannabis Ordinance.*
- *Participating in community based meetings, such as Neighborhood Watch, to improve neighborhood health and reduce crime.*
- *Assisting POP Detectives with the unit's street crimes/narcotics investigations.*

It is anticipated NOP will focus much of its attention on Eureka's West Side, which has been the origin of many such complaints.

The NOP position is currently being filled by a regular member of the department's POP Unit, who was reassigned to the new position. This was made possible by the recent return of three EPD officers from overseas military service with the California Army National Guard, one of whom has now resumed his duties with the POP Unit. It is anticipated that when staffing levels sufficiently improve, the department will open a new recruitment to fill the NOP position and the interim NOP investigator will return to his regular POP duties.

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