



Eureka Police Department

PRESS RELEASE

Eureka Police Department

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3/10/2010

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Subject: EPD POP UNIT SERVES TWO SEARCH WARRANTS -8 GUNS AND OVER 2 OUNCES OF METHAMPHETAMINE SEIZED

Contact: Sergeant Steve Watson

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3100 Block of Summer Street

On 3-10-10, at about 7:55 AM, Officers with the Eureka Police Department's Problem-Oriented Policing (POP) Unit, assisted by Patrol, served a search warrant on a residence in the 3100 block of Summer Street. This was in response to information POP developed that Robert Samuel French (52 of Eureka) and Maria Angela Camacho (43 of Eureka) were dealing methamphetamine from the residence.

No one was home at the time the warrant was served. Inside, officers located over 2 ounces of crystal methamphetamine, a working police scanner set to EPD's main channel, numerous items of drug paraphernalia (pipes, needles, etc.), and 8 firearms, including 6 rifles, 2 handguns, and ammunition. Officers also located and seized evidence indicative of drug sales including a large quantity of drug packaging materials, "pay and owe" sheets, and a digital gram scale.

At about 11:30 AM, detectives with the Humboldt County Sheriff's Office notified EPD that they had stopped and detained French in a vehicle at the Blue Lake Casino's gas station. HCSO Detectives searched French and his vehicle pursuant to EPD's search warrant. HCSO subsequently arrested French for possession and transportation of methamphetamine for sales and possession of hypodermic syringes. Additionally, Humboldt County Drug Task Force Agents were called to the scene to seize (for asset forfeiture proceedings) approximately \$1,300.00 cash believed to be proceeds from his drug sales.

Upon his arrival at the Humboldt County Correctional Facility, French was also arrested and booked by POP Officers for 11366.5 H&S (maintaining a place for drug sales), 12021(a)(1) PC (unlawful possession of a firearm by a narcotic addict), 11377(a) H&S (possession of methamphetamine), 11364 H&S (possession of drug paraphernalia), and 4140 B&P (possession of hypodermic syringes).

Camacho currently remains outstanding and a warrant is being requested for her arrest for 11378 H&S (possession of methamphetamine for sale) and 11366.6 H&S (maintaining a place for drug sales). Anyone with information about her whereabouts is encouraged to call EPD at 441-4044.



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Due to electrical hazards found there, City of Eureka Building Department and PG&E officials also responded to the residence. For safety reasons, power was cut to the residence and the meter removed. Additionally, a warning/notification letter was sent to the property owner strongly encouraging immediate action to remedy the problems associated with their property. The property owner notification includes the following advisement:

"Under Health and safety code 11366.5 (a) Any person who has under his or her management or control any building, room, space, or enclosure, either as an owner, lessee, agent, employee, or mortgagee, who knowingly rents, leases, or makes available for use, with or without compensation, the building, room, space, or enclosure for the purpose of unlawfully manufacturing, storing, or distributing any controlled substance for sale or distribution shall be punished by imprisonment in the county jail for not more than one year, or in the state prison. This is a notice to inform you in writing of the activities at (location) and the above section gives you the authority to evict the tenants at this location for cause."

Camacho & French





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PRESS RELEASE

3400 Block of Elizabeth Street

On 3-10-10, at about 10:36 AM, Officers with the Eureka Police Department's Problem-Oriented Policing (POP) Unit, assisted by Patrol, served a second search warrant on a residence in the 3400 block of Elizabeth Street. This was in response to information and complaints POP received about drug use and methamphetamine sales activity occurring from the residence.

Upon entering the residence, officers detained approximately 8 subjects including Aron Eduardo Orozco-Lemuz (21 of Eureka), Melissa Nichole O'Callaghan (24 of Eureka), and Carl Edward Strasser (39 of Eureka). During a search of the residence, officers located numerous items of drug paraphernalia (including methamphetamine pipes and dozens of hypodermic syringes), approximately 15 ounces (nearly one pound) of processed marijuana, and evidence indicative of illicit drug sales including pay & owe sheets and recent cell phone records of numerous, on-going drug sales transactions.

Orozco was taken into custody and transported to HCCF for maintaining a space for purposes of drug use/sales, possession of hypodermic syringes, possession of over an ounce of marijuana, and possession of counterfeit/false government-issued identification.

O'Callaghan was taken into custody and transported to HCCF for maintaining a space for purposes of drug use/sales, possession of hypodermic syringes, and possession of over an ounce of marijuana.

Strasser was taken into custody and transported to HCCF for possession of drug paraphernalia.

The extremely unsanitary condition of the residence necessitated officers wearing masks due to the overwhelming foul odors found inside. Due to numerous electrical and fire hazards encountered, City of Eureka Building and Fire Department officials also responded to the property. For safety reasons, power was cut to the residence. Additionally, the property owners were warned to take immediate action to remedy the problems associated with their property, which has been referred to the Community Improvement Team for follow-up.

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