



# Eureka Police Department

## PRESS RELEASE

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### **Eureka Police Department**

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3/08/2010

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Subject: EPD POP Unit Arrests Eureka Man for Warrants, Resisting, and Possession of a Loaded Handgun and Stolen Property**

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On Monday, 3/08/10, at about 11:25 AM, Officers with the Eureka Police Department's Problem-Oriented Policing (POP) Unit went to a residence in the 2900 block of Pine Street to arrest a wanted subject, Anthony Valandingham Pratt, 26, of Eureka. Pratt was wanted for 4 no bail misdemeanor warrants alleging violations of 415(2) PC (disturbing the peace), 602 PC (criminal trespass), 148 PC (resisting/obstructing a peace officer), and 273.5 PC (domestic violence with injury). Additionally, Pratt was under active investigation by POP for the alleged sales of methamphetamine in Eureka and he was reportedly in possession of a handgun.

As officers approached the garage where Pratt was known to be living, they spotted him taking the trash out to a receptacle in the adjacent alley. Because Pratt was reportedly armed with a handgun, Officers took him into custody at gunpoint. The door to Pratt's nearby garage-room was wide open, and officers subsequently observed a Glock 17 9mm semi-automatic handgun and a portable police-EMS radio/scanner lying in plain view on top of a makeshift table inside. The Glock was loaded with 9 full metal jacket (FMJ) rounds in its magazine. The police radio was programmed to scan local police agencies, and it was turned on and set to EPD's main radio channel.

Officers secured the garage and the adjacent, associated apartment pending the procurement of a signed search warrant from a Superior Court Judge. An adult female associate of Pratt's was also detained pending further investigation. The female was later released without charges.

As an officer stood by with Pratt while a caged patrol car was being brought around to the alley, he suddenly bolted in an attempt to escape custody. Pratt ran from the alley to Pine Street where he continued northbound toward West Henderson Street with an officer pursuing him on foot. During the pursuit, he lost his shoes and his pants. The pursuing officer eventually caught up with Pratt on the north side of West Henderson Street and Pine Streets where a Taser was successfully deployed to stop him.

Once a search warrant was obtained, officers searched Pratt's residence. Officers subsequently located drug paraphernalia (methamphetamine pipe), a digital gram scale, MSM (substance commonly used by drug dealers to "cut" controlled substances such as meth. to increase profit),



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and two boxes of 9mm ammunition for the Glock handgun. No methamphetamine was located during the search, but the gram scale and cutting agent were consistent with methamphetamine sales activity. Additionally, further investigation revealed the portable radio had been stolen in August 2009 during a vehicle burglary in Eureka.

After Pratt was medically cleared, he was transported to the Humboldt County Correctional Facility where he was booked on his warrants and for fresh charges including unlawful/felony possession of a firearm (due to a domestic violence conviction), resisting arrest, possession of stolen property, possession of drug paraphernalia, and probation violation.

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