



Eureka Police Department

PRESS RELEASE

Eureka Police Department

604 C Street
Eureka, CA 95501
Phone: (707) 441-4060
FAX: (707) 441-4334

4/19/2011

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Subject: EPD Hires New Police Services Officer as Homeless Liaison

Contact: Sergeant Steve Watson

- Front Desk (707) 441-4060
- POP Office (707) 441-4373
- Work Cell (707) 601-5464

The Eureka Police Department welcomes Pamlyn Millsap to our family. Pamlyn was hired by Chief Nielsen as a Police Services Officer on March 17th, 2011 and she will be serving as EPD's homeless liaison. As such, she brings a wealth of experience to this new position within the department.

Pamlyn recently retired from Humboldt County Mental Health after 19 years as the Homeless Coordinator there. In a recent introductory email to the department, Pamlyn wrote: *"It is my great pleasure to get to work with the officers and staff of the Eureka Police Department. My job description is evolving, but in essence Chief Nielsen has asked me to help folks transition off the streets of Eureka and reduce the need for officer contacts. It is my hope that I will be able to help make your difficult jobs a little easier and assist in getting some of the folks into stable housing or back home."*

Some of the services Pamlyn anticipates offering include:

- Assistance with locating food, clothing and shelter to help homeless individuals/families transition off streets.
- Assistance connecting with family or friends out of the area (through the Transportation Assistance Program (TAP) or other means).
- Helping individuals get into DETOX and then into more long term supportive housing.
- Assistance with locating and obtaining alcohol and other drug treatment options. (Crossroads, Litton Springs, Delancy Street, Veteran Affairs, etc.).
- Linkage and referral to other homeless service providers.
- Crisis Intervention Team referrals for individuals with mental health issues.



Eureka Police Department

PRESS RELEASE

-
- Accompanying officers to homeless encampments to contact subjects needing to transition into housing.

Pamlyn will be working on ways to alleviate some of the homeless issues officers have to deal with on a daily basis. To that end, she will be coordinating with other local service providers. Pamlyn writes: *"One of my goals and one of the Chief's visions has been to reduce the number of contacts law enforcement has with the same individuals. I am working with community partners on treatment options for these folks. I am doing follow up and referring folks to existing programs that can help them stabilize and recover. I am linking homeless to services."*

Pamlyn continues:

"I started working with law enforcement back in 1985 with the Victim Witness program. My job was to read the police reports and contact the victims to offer support. I started working in the mental health field in 1989, working both at Remi Vista Group home and at Crestwood Behavioral Health. I retired from Mental Health after being the Homeless Coordinator since 1992. I have a part time job working for the HART program (4 hours per week) as a substance abuse counselor and other than that, planned on doing nothing for at least 6 months. When I got the call from the Chief's office describing this position and the job offer- all my retirement plans flew right out the window and I accepted the job offer. I have enjoyed every minute of my employment and working with the officers.

"Recently, I was sent by EPD to advanced Hostage Negotiation training for domestic violence incidents. Through Mental Health, I was also part of the original team that helped start the Crisis Intervention Training (CIT--a collaboration between law enforcement and mental health) back in 2006. I continue to be part of the CIT through EPD. I have a long history of working side by side with EPD to help transition the homeless off the streets. I would never have been able to do my job in the past without the support of law enforcement."

Chief Nielsen views Pamlyn's role as providing an additional resource to his officers repeatedly dealing with certain segments of Eureka's homeless population. Transient related issues are a source of significant calls for service and citizen complaints for the department (trespassing, aggressive panhandling, camping and urinating in public, public intoxication, disturbances, and other alcohol and municipal code violations etc.). Chief Nielsen notes Pamlyn has connections to resources that officers may not have. He anticipates Pamlyn will be able to help relieve the pressure on his officers by more efficiently linking homeless individuals with the local service providers available to them.



###