NEWS RELEASE

EUREKA POLICE DEPARTMENT

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04/26/12

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Subject: POP Pops Heroin Dealers

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Prepared by: Sergeant Watson

On 4/26/12, at about 11:52 AM, the Eureka Police Department's Problem Oriented Policing Unit (POP) responded to an apartment building on the 1500 block of 5th Street Eureka to conduct a narcotics investigation. This was after POP received information residents were dealing controlled substances from one of the apartments there.

Upon arrival, investigators contacted 54-year-old Randy Jack Kobici and 28-year-old Eleanor Floy Bettes inside the apartment. A records check confirmed Kobici was on probation for a fraud related offense and Bettes was on formal felony probation for possession of a controlled substance. Bettes claimed to have just moved in that day.

During a subsequent search of the apartment and Bettes' belongings, investigators located approximately 39.5 grams of heroin (1.4 ounces), dozens of controlled prescription pills (Clonazepam and Alprazolam among others), and drug use paraphernalia (meth pipes etc. and numerous hypodermic syringes, 5 of which were "loaded" with suspected heroin ready for injection). Investigators also found evidence of heroin sales activity including packaging materials, two digital gram scales, and written records of drug sales transactions.

While detectives were still conducting their investigation, 38-year-old Mingo Allen Gaitan arrived at the apartment building and was detained. Gaitan was on formal felony

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probation for maintaining a place for drug sales. He was also dating Bettes and property belonging to him was located in the apartment.

Bettes was arrested and transported to the Humboldt County Correctional Facility where she was booked for possession of a controlled substance for sale, possession of a controlled substance, possession of drug paraphernalia, and conspiracy to commit a crime (heroin sales).

Gaitan was arrested and transported to the Humboldt County Correctional Facility where he was booked for possession of a controlled substance for sale, possession of a controlled substance, and conspiracy to commit a crime (heroin sales).

Due to significant health issues, Kobici was cited and released on his own recognizance for possession of heroin for sale, maintaining a place for drug use/sales, and conspiracy to commit a crime (heroin sales).

Anyone with information concerning suspected drug activity occurring in the City of Eureka is encouraged to call the Problem Oriented Policing Unit at (707) 441-4373 or the Humboldt County Drug Task Force at (707) 444-8095. Anyone with information for the Sheriffs Office regarding criminal activity, including drug activity, is encouraged to call the Sheriffs Office at 707-445-7251 or the Sheriffs Office Crime Tip line 707-268-2539.

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Mingo Gaitan

