



NEWS RELEASE



EUREKA POLICE DEPARTMENT

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Date: 06/22/15

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Subject: Violent Encounters over the Weekend

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This past weekend, Officers from the Eureka Police Department were involved in two unpredictable and violent encounters. These encounters serve as a reminder of the dangers police and medical/fire personnel face daily.

On 06/20/15 at about 12:30 a.m., an officer attempted contact with a suspicious subject near Church and A streets. The male, later identified as Waymond Starritt, 48 of Eureka, violently resisted and punched the officer multiple times in the face causing visible injury. Additional officers arrived on scene and deployed a Taser. The Taser probes became dislodged and a second brief struggle began.

Two officers were treated for their injuries, one with a broken nose and the other with a laceration to his hand. Both officers were also exposed to the suspect's blood during the struggle. Starritt was also treated for injuries before being transported to the Humboldt County Jail and booked for resisting an executive officer with use of force, carrying a concealed dagger, committing a felony while out on bail, and resisting arrest. Starritt admitted that he fought because he is out on bail awaiting a prison sentence up to 19 years.

On 06/21/15 at about 4:08 a.m., officers responded to an apartment on the 600 block of California Street for multiple reports of a disturbance involving a male, female, and a child. Based on the circumstances, the door was forced open. Officers located the male in a closet covered in blood with multiple self-inflicted lacerations.



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Humboldt Bay Fire and City Ambulance were cleared to enter the residence. As medical staff attempted to treat the male he became argumentative and swung at a medic. The male refused to follow commands and became physically resistant. Multiple Taser activations were necessary to secure the male in handcuffs. Once in handcuffs, the male continued to actively resist and Humboldt Bay Fire personnel assisted police in gaining control of the male. Medical staff had to administer a sedative so that the male could be transported to the hospital to treat his wounds.

The female occupant advised that the male had taken a large dose of LSD and drank alcohol, which caused the erratic behavior. Due to the unsafe environment, the child on scene was placed into Child Protective Services.

The male was placed on a 5150 hold and a complaint filed for child endangerment and possession of LSD will be forwarded to the DA for prosecution. No officers were injured during this contact; however, their uniforms were torn and covered in the male's blood. Due to the medical nature, the male's name will not be released.

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