



# Eureka Police Department

## PRESS RELEASE

---

### **Eureka Police Department**

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

7/19/2010

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **Subject: EPD Arrests Four Following Two Related Robberies**

#### **Contact:** Sergeant Steve Watson

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

On 7/16/10, at about 10:07 PM, Eureka Police Department officers responded to what was initially reported to be a fight involving multiple subjects in the vicinity of the 1100 block of E Street, Eureka. Upon arrival, officers were approached by an adult male and female couple, who reported they had just been robbed by a group of male suspects.

The victims told officers they were walking northbound on E Street around the 1500 block when they saw several male subjects walking and making noise. Upon seeing the victims, the subjects began yelling things at them and approaching them. As the victims continued walking north on E Street, one of the male suspects rode toward them on a bicycle. As the subject on the bicycle neared the victims, he crashed his bicycle. The victims laughed to each other and continued walking northbound on E Street.

As the victims passed the Hillside Apartments on E Street, the group of 4-6 male suspects suddenly attacked the male victim, punching him repeatedly. The fight moved into the alley just north of the Hillside Apartments. While he was being punched, the male victim fell to the ground where the suspects continued punching and kicking him. The victim then pulled out a knife he was carrying in an attempt to defend himself. As the victim pulled out his knife, one of the suspects said, "He's got a knife." Upon hearing this, another one of the suspects challenged the victim by stating, "So you want to knife fight me?" The victim reportedly then put his knife away because he did not want to become involved in a knife fight.

After physically attacking and injuring the male victim, the suspects took his wallet, which contained about \$60.00, and his backpack, which contained his laptop computer. The suspects then all fled. The victim described three of his attackers as white male adults in their twenties, and a fourth as appearing to be Hispanic or Native American.

While an officer was taking the victims' statements, another EPD officer advised he was out with two additional robbery victims on the 1500 block of E Street. The second officer also advised a backpack had been located to the rear of a residence in the 1500 block of E Street. Officers responded to the rear of the address where they found the first male victim's backpack and laptop computer. These items were identified by the victim as his and returned to him. He then



# Eureka Police Department

## PRESS RELEASE

---

left to go to the hospital for treatment of his injuries. The victim's nose was later determined to be fractured.

The two male victims the second officer had contacted stated they were in Hammond Park when they were approached by several male subjects. The suspects began pointing to two vehicles parked nearby on 15<sup>th</sup> Street—a dark colored "muscle car" and a red colored Chevrolet Camaro. The suspects then attacked both victims, holding them down and punching them. After attacking and beating the victims, the suspects fled after first taking one victim's bicycle and the other victim's cell phone and cash (\$10.00).

One of the victims told officers he knew one of the suspects, whom he identified as Cameron Johnson. The other victim further described the suspects as three white male adults and a Hispanic male adult. The suspects' descriptions from both robberies were similar and officers began working under the assumption the robberies were perpetrated by the same individuals.

Based on the victims' descriptions, officers subsequently located a red Camaro and dark colored Plymouth parked nearby on 15<sup>th</sup> Street. These vehicles were believed to be associated with the robbery suspects.

At approximately 11:26 PM, officers, acting on information they'd since developed, located three male subjects at the corner of California and Church Streets. The subjects, later identified as Cameron Jared Johnson (19), Stephen Larry Edwards (20), and Kristopher Ray Wharff (20), matched the suspects' descriptions given by the victims. The suspects were handcuffed and searched for weapons. A large dagger type knife was located on Johnson's person. Additionally, an earlier records check had confirmed the red Camaro parked on 15<sup>th</sup> Street was registered to Kristopher Wharff.

While officers were dealing with the three detained suspects, another officer saw the dark colored Plymouth (that been parked on 15<sup>th</sup> Street earlier) driving southbound on California Street. Officers conducted a traffic stop on the Plymouth and detained its driver, Nolan Thomas Lamont (20). Lamont matched the physical and clothing description the victims gave for one of the suspects. Officers also observed dried blood on Lamont's shirt. Lamont was searched and found to be in possession of a pair of brass knuckles and some hash.

As the investigation progressed, detectives with the Eureka Police Department's Criminal Investigations Section (CIS) were called out to take the lead on the case.

A field show-up was conducted with the victims. The first couple positively identified Edwards and Wharff as being two of the suspects who attacked and robbed them. The second pair of victims identified all four suspects as being the ones who robbed them. All four suspects were taken into custody and transported to EPD headquarters for further questioning. The Plymouth was impounded as evidence and towed to a secure storage facility until a search warrant could be obtained to look for the victims' missing property. Wharff's red Camaro was also later impounded for the same reason.

The three suspects who chose to speak with detectives all denied any knowledge of the robberies or assaults. They also all gave completely different and conflicting statements. Further examination revealed Johnson and Edwards had fresh wounds to their hands consistent with having hit something or someone. Also, all four suspects had what appeared to be dried blood



# Eureka Police Department

## PRESS RELEASE

---

on articles of their clothing. Their clothing was collected for further analysis and DNA comparison.

After their interviews were conducted, all four suspects were transported to the Humboldt County Jail where they were booked for 211 PC -Robbery. Lamont was also booked for possession of concentrated cannabis and unlawful possession of a deadly weapon (brass knuckles).

###







