



Eureka Police Department

PRESS RELEASE

Eureka Police Department

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Subject: POP Conducts Another Neighborhood Complaint-Based Maximum Enforcement Operation

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On 8/31/11, investigators with the Eureka Police Department's Problem Oriented Policing Unit (POP) conducted another "maximum enforcement" operation focusing on specific neighborhood problem houses within the City of Eureka. Approximately 11 locations were specifically targeted based upon on-going complaints EPD/POP had been receiving about suspected criminal and nuisance activity occurring at these residences. These complaints included allegations of suspected drug activity among other problems.

During the approximately 8-hour operation, 4 suspects were arrested for various offenses including outstanding warrants and drug related charges, one was cited and released on warrants, and a 6th was cited and released for Eureka Municipal Code violations.

Leya Marie Phetsomphou (31 of Eureka) was arrested at a residence on the 2200 block of 'E' Street for an outstanding counterfeiting-related misdemeanor warrant.

A **48-year-old Eureka woman** was cited and released for a Eureka Municipal Code violation (improper occupancy) at the same 'E' Street residence after two subjects were found sleeping in her detached garage. The garage had been illegally converted to a living space where she was allowing individuals to stay. Investigators located drug use paraphernalia in the garage, including a meth pipe. The woman was the person responsible for the property and its tenants, and as such she was also admonished she may face future criminal and civil sanctions if she did not work to abate the problem immediately. The matter is being referred to the City Attorney's office and further nuisance abatement proceedings are anticipated. The woman had also received prior warnings.

Investigators visited 3 rooms at a motel on the 4200 block of Broadway where tenants rent rooms on a month-to-month basis. A small quantity of drug paraphernalia was destroyed and one subject was cited and released on traffic related warrants. The residents of two of the rooms were referred to the motel management for eviction proceedings related to suspected drug activity there.



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Joseph Duane Pinkard (36 of Eureka) and **Tasha Lynn Uber** (34 of Eureka) were arrested on felony drug charges at a residence on the 500 block of West Del Norte Street. Investigators located small quantities of suspected methamphetamine and heroin during a search of the bedroom they shared. Pinkard and Uber were transported to the County Jail where they were booked for possession of a controlled substance, possession of drug paraphernalia and hypodermic syringes, and maintaining a space for drug use/sales. Pinkard was also arrested for parole violation.

At approximately 12:20 PM, a POP detective stopped a Ford Ranger pick-up truck being driven by **Jeffery Lee Loranger** (64 of Fortuna) on the 1200 block of Broadway. Loranger had made an unsafe lane change and his vehicle's registration was 7 months expired. Loranger was determined to be unlicensed and on active parole for possession of marijuana for sale. During a search of his vehicle, the detective located over \$11,000.00 cash (10 separate hand-banded bundles) inside a Christmas gift bag on the passenger floorboard. Over ½ ounce of processed marijuana was also located in the truck. Loranger did not have a medical marijuana recommendation (Proposition 215). Loranger was arrested and transported to HCCF where he was booked for unlawful transportation of marijuana, being an unlicensed (and uninsured) driver, parole violation and miscellaneous other traffic infractions. Humboldt County Drug Task Force Agents also responded to seize the cash (suspected illicit drug sales proceeds) for asset forfeiture proceedings.

Anyone with information concerning suspected drug sales activity or other neighborhood crime problems occurring in Eureka is encouraged to call the Problem Oriented Policing Unit at (707) 441-4373.

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WHEEL, BODY, LOCKER, STRAP



DANGER
Do Not Enter
Unsafe to Occupy

SECTION 116.1 OF THE CALIFORNIA
BUILDING CODE TITLE 15, CHAPTER 150
SECTION .153 AND .157

By Order of the
BUILDING OFFICIAL
and/or
FIRE CHIEF



City of Eureka

ANY UNAUTHORIZED PERSON REMOVING
THIS SIGN OR ENTERING THIS BUILDING
SHALL BE PROSECUTED.

[Handwritten signature]
[Handwritten signature]



Joseph Pinkard





Tasha Uber