



CITY OF EUREKA

EUREKA POLICE DEPARTMENT

604 C Street

Eureka, California 95501-0341

(707) 441-4060

NEWS RELEASE

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604 C Street

Eureka, CA 95501

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07/12/12

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Subject: Meth Dealer Arrested

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Prepared by: Sergeant Steve Watson

On 7/11/12, at about 5:55 PM, investigators with the Eureka Police Department's Problem Oriented Policing Unit (POP) spotted the subject of an on-going methamphetamine sales investigation, Louis Renee Prado (55), riding a bicycle in the vicinity of 3rd and A Streets, Eureka. The POP Unit had previously obtained a signed search warrant from a Humboldt County Superior Court Judge for Prado. The warrant was obtained after POP received information from multiple sources that Prado was selling methamphetamine within the City of Eureka. This information included a complaint that Prado was selling to the homeless population around the Eureka Rescue Mission and Saint Vincent de Paul Soup Kitchen.

Prado was stopped and detained on A Street between 2nd and 3rd Streets. During a search of his person pursuant to the warrant, investigators located a 3.5 million volt stun gun, large switchblade style knife, over \$190.00 cash (suspected drug sales proceeds), and a small digital gram scale. Investigators also found two ¼ ounce bags of crystal methamphetamine (1/2 ounce or 14 grams in total) pinned to the inside of Prado's undershorts.

Prado was arrested and transported to the Humboldt County Correctional facility where he was booked for possession of methamphetamine for sale and unlawful possession of a stun gun by a prohibited person (Prado has a prior assault conviction).



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Investigators then responded to a mini storage facility on the 900 block of West Del Norte Street where they searched a storage unit being rented by Prado. Inside the storage unit, investigators located approximately one pound of processed marijuana, several grams of hash, unused drug sales packaging materials, a canister of pepper spray (which Prado was also prohibited from possessing), and several controlled pills (Vicodin) for which he did not have a prescription.

Additionally, investigators located 7 California Golden State Advantage EBT cards in other persons' names. EBT cards are frequently traded or sold by individuals who receive them in exchange for controlled substances such as methamphetamine. (EBT cards have credit or funds worth a certain cash value placed on them monthly and they can be used at ATMs and point-of-sale devices). *"Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) is an electronic system that automates the delivery, redemption, and reconciliation of issued public assistance benefits."* ~www.ebt.ca.gov

Additional charges of possession of a controlled substance, possession of concentrated cannabis (Prado does not have a Prop 215 medical marijuana recommendation), possession of over an ounce of marijuana, and unlawful possession of tear gas by a prohibited person are being requested to be filed by the District Attorney's Office.

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 Sheriff's Office regarding criminal activity, including drug activity, is encouraged to call the Sheriff's Office at 707-445-7251 or the Sheriff's Office Crime Tip line 707-268-2539.

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LOUIS RENEE PRADO