



HUMBOLDT COUNTY DRUG TASK FORCE

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HUMBOLDT COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
EUREKA POLICE DEPARTMENT
CALIFORNIA HIGHWAY PATROL

HUMBOLDT COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY
ARCATA POLICE DEPARTMENT
FORTUNA POLICE DEPARTMENT

PRESS RELEASE

On Tuesday, April 27, 2021 agents with the Humboldt County Drug Task Force (HCDTF), with the assistance of the Humboldt County Sheriff's Office (HCSO), Eureka Police Department Problem Oriented Policing Team (POP), and Fortuna Police Department (FOPD), served a multiple location search warrant on the "Roberto" Drug Trafficking Organization (DTO). In October of 2018, the HCDTF arrested the leader of the Roberto DTO, Jose Ochoa Ayon (42 years old from Southern California) as he was following a shipment of 9 pounds of heroin into Humboldt County. Ayon is out of custody after serving two years in the Humboldt County Jail. The HCDTF received information that Ayon was again using runners to transports large quantities of heroin into Humboldt County.

At approx. 1230 hrs. HCDTF agents with the assistance of an HCSO Deputy made a traffic stop on Ayon's two runners at the intersection of Ross Hill Rd. and Kenmar Rd. in Fortuna. The runners were identified as Jesus Valenzuela (28 years old from Southern California) and Elliot Cuevas (40 years old from Southern California). Valenzuela and Cuevas were detained without incident. Agents conducted a search of the vehicle and located approx. 3 pounds of heroin.

HCDTF and FOPD conducted a search of a "stash" residence that had been identified in the 3700 block of Jones Ct. in Fortuna. Agents located 1 pound of heroin and 1 pound of methamphetamine inside a room rented by the suspects.

HCDTF and POP conducted a search of a residence in the 2900 block of Union St. in Eureka where the suspects had been identified as living. Agents located approx. \$10,000 of US currency in the suspects residence. This money was seized pending an asset forfeiture investigation.

Valenzuela and Cuevas were transported to the Humboldt County Jail where they were booked for the following charges:

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|-------------|--|
| • H&S 11351 | Possession of controlled substances for sale |
| • H&S 11352 | Transportation of controlled substances for sale |
| • H&S 11378 | Possession of methamphetamine for sale |
| • PC 182 | Conspiracy |

The HCDTF is forwarding a warrant affidavit to the District Attorney's Office for the leader of the DTO, Jose Ochoa Ayon, for conspiracy to distribute heroin and methamphetamine in Humboldt County.

In total the HCDTF seized 4 pounds of heroin, 1 pound of methamphetamine, and approx. \$10,000 in US currency.

The HCDTF would like to thank the HCSO, FOPD, and EPD POP for their assistance with this investigation. Anyone with information related to this investigation or other narcotics related crimes are encouraged to call the Humboldt County Drug Task Force at 707-267-9976.

Sergeant Matt Tomlin



003-1000
20 oz
heroin

20 oz
CAR

20 oz





