



Eureka Police Department

PRESS RELEASE

Eureka Police Department

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Subject: POP Serves Search Warrant at M Street Drug House – Owner and Two Tenants Arrested on Felony Drug Charges

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On 8/11/11, at about 2:30 PM, investigators with the Eureka Police Department's Problem Oriented Policing Unit served a search warrant at a single family residence on the 1300 block of M Street, Eureka. The warrant was the result of on-going neighborhood complaints about suspected drug activity occurring at the residence. These complaints included reports of heavy foot and vehicle traffic to and from the residence at all hours.

Investigators initially detained 5 subjects at the home, including the owner, two roommates, and two visitors who'd just arrived in a vehicle. During a subsequent search of the residence, investigators found evidence of drug use and sales activity, including small quantities of suspected methamphetamine and heroin, multiple meth pipes and hypodermic syringes, numerous new and unused drug packaging baggies, a digital gram scale, and other records highly indicative of drug sales activity.

The owner of the residence, **Constance Lee Foley (58 of Eureka)**, was taken into custody for section 11366.5 of the Health & Safety Code – Knowingly making a place available for the purposes of drug use/sales. Foley was transported to the Humboldt County Jail where she was booked on this felony charge. This was the POP Unit's 4th visit to the home since October 2010 in which arrests were made for drug related offenses or warrants. Foley had been previously warned that as the owner of the property, she could be held criminally and civilly liable for the drug activity at her residence. However, Foley failed to take any steps to rectify the problem which had grown worse over time. At the time of her arrest, Foley had at least 4 other individuals, all known drug users, living in her two bedroom home and paying rent. This included an individual living in the garage, which was also a violation of the Eureka Municipal Code.

Resident **Ronald Gene Elwell, 40 of Eureka**, was arrested and transported to the Humboldt County Jail for possession of a controlled substance, possession of drug paraphernalia, possession of hypodermic syringes, and parole violation.

Resident **Lola Anne Crothers (AKA: Lola Bailey, Lola Casey), 49 of Eureka**, was arrested and transported to the Humboldt County Jail for possession of a controlled substance for sale,



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possession of a controlled substance, possession of drug paraphernalia, and maintaining space for purposes of drug sales.

This investigation remains on-going and additional arrests may follow.

Additionally, Foley's residence has been declared a nuisance property used for drug-related activities in accordance with **Eureka Municipal Code (EMC) section 132.01**. Corrective action to abate this problem is being ordered by Chief of Police Murl Harpham in accordance with this code. Once written notice has been served, failure to comply with the actions ordered by the Chief of Police may result in remedies being imposed and the City Attorney may bring a civil action under this section for injunctive and other relief.

The Problem Oriented Policing Unit would like to remind the public that property owners such as Foley may be liable for civil penalties of \$100.00 - \$1,000.00 per day for each day they fail to comply with the actions ordered by the Chief of Police. Additionally, *"...any person aggrieved by such a nuisance may bring an independent civil action against the private property owner of the property on or about which such activity has occurred for all appropriate relief including damages, costs, and attorney's fees, which she/he may have incurred as a result of such activity of no less than \$500.00."* E.M.C. 132.02(D).

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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Lola Crothers





Ronald Elwell