



HUMBOLDT COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE PAUL V. GALLEGOS • DISTRICT ATTORNEY

Criminal Division • tel (707) 445-7411 • fax (707) 445-7416 • 825 5th Street, Eureka, CA 95501
Victim Witness Assistance • tel (707) 445-7417 • fax (707) 445-7490 • 712 4th Street, Eureka, CA 95501

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CONTACT: Assistant District Attorney Kelly L. Neel

PHONE: (707) 445-7411

On Friday, December 02, 2011, Mark Anthony Nelson, 31, of Eureka, pleaded guilty to felony shooting into an occupied vehicle. This was a strike offense as Nelson was a felon in possession of a firearm and ammunition. Nelson will serve a stipulated term of 6 years and 4 months in the California Department of Corrections.

On July 25, 2011, Nelson was driving the silver Mercury Marquis on H Street in Eureka when he was struck from behind by a red sports utility vehicle driven by a 33 year old female. Witnesses stated that the driver of the SUV struck the silver Marquis several times as the vehicles traveled southbound on H Street. Witnesses also reported that the force of the impacts appeared to cause both vehicles to deviate from a linear course. Around the 1300 block of H Street, Nelson fired a 9 MM handgun three times at the vehicle behind him. The shots went through his vehicle's rear window and through the windshield of the red SUV. One bullet struck the female driver in the face and another was lodged in her arm. Nelson fled the scene and turned himself in to authorities the next day.

The case was prosecuted by Deputy District Attorney Luke Brownfield. The Honorable Timothy Cissna presided.