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News Release

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St. Paul man indicted for transporting stolen property

A 46-year-old St. Paul man who was indicted last week in federal court for his role in an alleged scheme to steal merchandise from retail businesses and then sell that merchandise made his initial appearance yesterday. The indictment, which was filed on Feb. 20, was unsealed on Feb. 25 following the man's arrest and initial appearance.

Daniel Scott Reetz was charged with one count of conspiracy to transport stolen property. Reetz's indictment alleges that from June 9, 2008, through Jan. 2, 2009, he unlawfully and knowingly conspired with others to transport stolen merchandise with a value of at least \$5,000.

The indictment also alleges that Reetz would travel with his associates to retail businesses outside of Minnesota, enter a store, empty a large box of its original contents, and then fill it with new, more valuable items, such as computers and electronics. They would pay for the box as though it contained the original contents and would return to Minnesota to sell the stolen merchandise. An investigation by Sam's Club Stores-Asset Protection uncovered the alleged scheme.

Twenty locations were listed in the indictment, including ones in Sioux Falls, S.D.; Green Bay, Wisc.; Ames, Iowa; and Fargo, N.D.

If convicted, Reetz faces a potential maximum penalty of five years in prison. All sentences are determined by a federal district court judge. This case is the result of an investigation by the United States Postal Inspection Service, the Woodbury Police Department and Sam's Club Stores. It is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Robert M. Lewis.

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An indictment is a determination by a grand jury that there is probable cause to believe that offenses have been committed by a defendant. A defendant, of course, is presumed innocent until he or she pleads guilty or is proven guilty at trial.