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# **News Release**

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## **Minneapolis man sentenced for counterfeiting**

A 20-year-old Minneapolis man was sentenced today in federal court for counterfeiting United States currency.

On April 22 in St. Paul, U.S. District Court Judge Paul Magnuson sentenced Nijm Mukhtar El-Amin Scott to 12 months in prison and three years of supervised release on one count of manufacturing counterfeit currency. Scott was indicted on Nov. 18, 2008, and pleaded guilty on Jan. 8.

“Due to the fast and thorough police work done by the Fridley Police Department, a large amount of the counterfeit currency Mr. Scott produced was confiscated before being passed into the community,” said John Kirkwood, Special Agent in Charge of the U.S. Secret Service’s Minneapolis District Office.

According to Scott’s plea agreement, he admitted that from Oct. 23 through Oct. 24, 2008, he knowingly manufactured counterfeit \$100 bills with the intent to defraud. Scott also admitted that he used a computer and other equipment to manufacture the counterfeit currency out of real \$5 bills. The total amount of counterfeit currency Scott manufactured was between \$10,000 and \$30,000.

Scott admitted that he passed some of the counterfeit bills at area retailers to purchase expensive electronic items which he would then return for a cash refund.

According to a U.S. Secret Service affidavit, on Oct. 23 Scott purchased a DVD player and GPS navigation system at a Wal-Mart in Fridley, paying with six \$100 bills that were counterfeit. Also on Oct. 23, he purchased a \$300 DVD recorder and other items at a different Wal-Mart, again paying with six \$100 bills that were counterfeit.

An employee provided a license number of the vehicle Scott had been driving, which was registered to Scott’s girlfriend. On Oct. 24, police executed a search warrant at the girlfriend’s Fridley residence. Scott was in the apartment and appeared to be in the process of manufacturing counterfeit money, and a number of counterfeit \$100 bills were spread out on the living room

floor, along with a computer, a printer and bleached \$5 bills.

Approximately \$16,000 in counterfeit \$100 bills were recovered from the apartment, along with the DVD player and GPS navigation system purchased the day before.

This case was the result of an investigation by the U.S. Secret Service and the Fridley Police Department. It was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Jeffrey S. Paulsen.