



**United States Department of Justice  
United States Attorney's Office  
District of Minnesota**

**Frank J. Magill,  
United States Attorney**

David Anderson, Public Affairs Specialist  
(612) 664-5684; cell: (612) 730-2251

# **News Release**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
Thursday, Jan. 22, 2009

## **Minneapolis man indicted for being a convicted felon in possession of a firearm**

A 39-year-old Minneapolis man was indicted yesterday in federal court in connection with shots being fired on Oct. 4, 2008, at a rooming house in Minneapolis.

Martez Lamont Williams was charged Jan. 21 with one count of possession a firearm by a convicted felon. The indictment alleges that on Oct. 4 Williams did knowingly possess a Colt .32-caliber revolver.

Prior to the October possession, Williams had been convicted of felony-level crimes in Cook County, Illinois, including rape (1983) robbery (1983, 1988, 1989), use of firearms by a felon (1988), aggravated criminal sexual assault (1989), and home invasion (1989). Williams was also convicted in Hennepin County of fifth-degree possession of a controlled substance (2006) and terroristic threats (2007).

According to a United States Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) affidavit, on Oct. 4 the Minneapolis Police Department responded to a 911 "shots fired" call at the rooming house, located in the 1800 block of Elliot Avenue S. The officers positioned themselves around the house, and shortly thereafter, heard two shots being fired. Police then saw Williams open the front door of the house, look at the police and then close the door.

Officers instructed Williams to drop his gun if he had one, which Williams threw out the front door. He was arrested. The revolver was loaded with four live rounds and two discharged casings.

If convicted, Williams faces a potential maximum penalty of life in prison. All sentences are determined by a federal district court judge. This case is the result of an investigation by the Minneapolis Police Department and the ATF, and is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Carol M. Kayser.

This case is part of Project Safe Neighborhoods (PSN), a comprehensive, strategic approach

to reducing gun crime in America that was launched in 2001. It networks existing local programs that target gun crime and provides them with additional tools in the effort to make our streets and communities safer.

–30–

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.