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News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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St. Paul man sentenced for distributing methamphetamine

A 32-year-old St. Paul man was sentenced last week in federal court for distributing the highly addictive and dangerous drug methamphetamine.

On Dec. 12 in Minneapolis, United States District Court Chief Judge Michael Davis sentenced Israel Garcia Rea to 46 months in prison and five years supervised release on one count of possession with intent to distribute approximately 888 grams of methamphetamine. Rea was indicted on Aug. 4 and pleaded guilty on Sept. 23.

According to Rea's plea agreement, he admitted that he was in the process of making a delivery of the methamphetamine to a customer on July 2, 2008, in St. Paul, when he was stopped prior to the sale and arrested.

According to a Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) affidavit, police learned about a methamphetamine distribution operation in Dakota and Ramsey counties, whose members included Rea. On July 2, officers arranged a controlled buy of 2 pounds of methamphetamine at a location in Dakota County.

Authorities conducted a traffic stop of Rea, during which a K-9 officer alerted police to the driver's door and the rear portion of Rea's vehicle. Officers seized approximately 888.08 grams of methamphetamine from the rear cargo area, and arrested Rea.

This case was the result of an investigation by the DEA and the Dakota County Drug Task Force, and was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Nancy E. Brasel.