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News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Tuesday, April 19, 2011
WWW.JUSTICE.GOV/USAO/MN

Project Exile Felon Pleads Guilty

Earlier today in federal court in Minneapolis, a 35-year-old felon from Minneapolis pleaded guilty to possessing a .25-caliber, semi-automatic pistol on July 16, 2010. Reginald Allen Schwab, also known as Snake, pleaded guilty to one count of felon in possession of a firearm. Schwab, who was indicted on December 14, 2010, entered his plea before United States District Court Judge John R. Tunheim.

In his plea agreement, Schwab admitted possessing the pistol. According to a law enforcement affidavit filed in the case, Minneapolis police were called to the intersection of 27th Avenue North and Newton Avenue North at 10:30 p.m. on July 16, 2010. The caller reported seeing a man firing a gun into the air in that vicinity. Upon arriving on the scene, police arrested Schwab.

Because he is a felon, Schwab is prohibited from possessing firearms or ammunition at any time. Schwab's prior convictions include fifth-degree sale of a controlled substance (1996), first-degree manslaughter (1997), second-degree attempted assault (2003), and felon in possession of a firearm (2004).

For his crime, Schwab faces a potential maximum penalty of ten years in prison. Judge Tunheim will determine his sentence at a future hearing, yet to be scheduled.

This case is the result of an investigation by the Minneapolis Police Department and the Violent Crime Impact Team for the U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. It is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorneys Deidre Y. Aanstad and Andrew R. Winter.

The case was charged federally through Project Exile Minneapolis. That law enforcement initiative was launched on July 22, 2010, as part of a City-wide effort to reduce gun violence. Through Project Exile, the Minneapolis Police Department and the ATF work together to

apprehend serial criminals for violations of gun laws. Then, the Hennepin County Attorney's Office teams up with the U.S. Attorney's Office to determine where those offenders will most effectively be prosecuted – state or federal court. Those determinations are based on the offenders' criminal histories and current charges, among other factors. To date, the U.S. Attorney's Office has brought charges against more than a dozen serious habitual criminals through Project Exile Minneapolis.

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