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News Release

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White Bear Lake man pleads guilty to possessing a .357-revolver

Earlier today in federal court in Minneapolis, a 35-year-old White Bear Lake man pleaded guilty to possessing a .357-caliber revolver on September 27, 2010. James Michael Diederich pleaded guilty to one count of being a felon in possession of a firearm. Diederich, who was indicted on December 21, 2010, entered his plea before United States District Court Judge Patrick J. Schiltz.

In his plea agreement, Diederich admitted having the gun inside a backpack while driving another person's vehicle. Police found the gun in Diederich's possession after an encounter on the street.

Because he is a felon, Diederich is prohibited under federal law from possessing firearms or ammunition at any time. His prior convictions include attempted possession of a firearm by an ineligible person (2008), aggravated forgery (2007), possession with intent to distribute drugs (2003), fifth-degree possession of drugs (2001), and second-degree possession of drugs (2001).

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

This case is the result of an investigation by the South St. Paul Police Department and the U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. It is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Jeffrey S. Paulsen.

Note, this case is part of Project Safe Neighborhoods, an initiative launched by the U.S. Justice Department in 2001 to promote a multi-jurisdictional, comprehensive approach to reducing gun crime in America. PSN provides resources to strengthen law enforcement and crime prevention partnerships that work to make our streets and communities safer.

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