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News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Monday, August 1, 2011
WWW.JUSTICE.GOV/USAO/MN

Man pleads guilty to conspiring to pass counterfeit currency

MINNEAPOLIS – Earlier today in federal court, Scott Jon Buelow pleaded guilty to purchasing merchandise from commercial businesses with counterfeit United States currency. Buelow, age 47, with no known address, pleaded guilty to one count of conspiracy to pass counterfeit obligations. He was indicted, along with Daniel Ernest Richter, age 37, and Tressa Dee Weeden-Bootz, age 25, also with no known addresses on May 11, 2011. Buelow entered his plea before U.S. District Court Chief Judge Michael J. Davis.

In his plea agreement, Buelow admitted that from March 1, 2008, to April 2, 2009, he conspired with Richter and Weeden-Bootz to pass counterfeit \$100 bills in an effort to obtain money and merchandise from retail businesses. In addition, he admitted manufacturing bills at a St. Paul residence in October of 2008.

On July 1, 2011, Weeden-Bootz pleaded guilty to one count of conspiracy in connection to this crime. In her plea agreement, she admitted passing the phony bills at several hotels. On June 5, 2008, Richter and Weeden-Bootz were arrested in a Bloomington hotel room. At that time, they were found in possession of materials commonly used to manufacture counterfeit currency, including paper, a printing template, desktop computers, and instructions for the manufacturing process. The case against Richter continues.

For their crimes, the defendants face a potential maximum penalty of five years in prison. Judge Davis will determine the sentences at a future hearing, yet to be scheduled. This case is the result of an investigation by the U.S. Secret Service, the Minnesota Financial Crimes Task Force, the St. Paul Police Department, the Bloomington Police Department, the Burnsville Police Department, and the West St. Paul Police Department. It is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Kimberly A. Svendsen.

The Financial Crimes Task Force was established pursuant to state law. It is comprised of

local, state and federal law enforcement investigators, who work to combat the growing trend of cross-jurisdictional financial crimes. The task force is overseen by an advisory board, also created under state law.

The Secret Service and the Minnesota U.S. Attorney's Office want to remind people how to check for counterfeit currency. For more information, visit http://www.secretservice.gov/know_your_money.shtml

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