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News Release

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Felon sentenced for possessing a .40 caliber pistol

A 33-year-old felon from Cottage Grove was sentenced earlier today in federal court in Minneapolis for possessing a .40 caliber Smith and Wesson pistol. United States District Court Judge Patrick J. Schiltz sentenced Kingston Sebastian Gaulden to 33 months in prison on one count of possession of a firearm by a convicted felon. Gaulden was indicted on May 4, 2010, and pleaded guilty on July 21, 2010.

In his plea agreement, Gaulden admitted that on March 25, 2010, he possessed the handgun. Because he is a felon, Gaulden is prohibited under federal law from possessing firearms at any time. Gaulden's prior felonies include convictions in Hennepin County Court for fifth-degree possession of a controlled substance (1997) and violation of an order for protection (2004).

According to a law enforcement affidavit filed in the current federal case, Gaulden was a passenger in a vehicle stopped by Minneapolis Police on March 25. As officers approached the vehicle, they observed Gaulden moving around, leading them to believe he was attempting to hide something. When officers asked him to exit the vehicle, he refused. Then, when the officers assisted in removing him, he dropped the gun.

This case was the result of an investigation by the Minneapolis Police Department and the U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. It was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Andrew R. Winter.

Note, the 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 are working to make our streets and communities safer.

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