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News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Friday, February 25, 2011
WWW.JUSTICE.GOV/USAO/MN

Fridley felon indicted for possessing a .357 revolver; faces mandatory 15-year sentence as armed career criminal

A felon from Fridley was indicted today in federal court in Minneapolis for possessing a .357-caliber revolver on January 20, 2011. Roger Bruce Bugh, age 42, was charged with one count of being a felon in possession of a firearm.

The indictment alleges that on January 20, Bugh possessed the revolver. Because he is a felon, Bugh is prohibited from possessing firearms or ammunition at any time. Bugh's previous felony convictions include four in Ramsey County (two burglaries, an assault, and a theft), three in the District of Minnesota (two bank robberies and one for conspiracy to commit bank robbery), one in Stearns County for burglary, one in Dakota County for burglary, and one in Pierce County, Wisconsin, for burglary. Since at least three of those offenses were crimes of violence, Bugh is now subject to the federal armed career criminal statute, which mandates a 15-year minimum prison sentence if convicted. He faces a potential maximum penalty of life. All sentences will be determined by a federal district court judge.

According to a law enforcement affidavit filed in the case, Bugh sold the revolver during an arranged controlled purchase at an apartment complex in the 1300 block of East Seventh Street in St. Paul. Bugh was arrested without incident.

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

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An indictment is a determination by a grand jury that there is probable cause to believe that offenses have been committed by a defendant. A defendant, of course, is presumed innocent until he or she pleads guilty or is proven guilty at trial.

