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News Release

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Fridley man pleads guilty to failing to report to serve federal prison sentence

A 38-year-old Fridley man pleaded guilty earlier today in federal court in St. Paul to failing to report to federal officials to begin serving his prison sentence. Matthew Eric Linngren pleaded guilty to one count of failure to appear before United States District Court Judge Donovan W. Frank. Linngren was indicted on November 9, 2010.

On September 8, 2010, Linngren was sentenced to 180 months in prison for distributing child pornography and was to begin serving that sentence on September 22. On that day, however, he failed to surrender himself to authorities, as ordered by the U.S. District Court. Instead, he fled to California, where he was arrested on October 6, 2010, on auto theft charges in Los Angeles County. Following his arrest, he was turned over to the U.S. Marshals Service ("USMS").

For the crime of failing to surrender to serve a term of imprisonment, Linngren faces a potential maximum penalty of ten years in prison. Judge Frank will determine his sentence at a future hearing, yet to be scheduled. Any charges related to the alleged auto theft are within the jurisdiction of California authorities.

The failure-to-appear case is the result of an investigation by the USMS, with assistance from the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Office. It is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Karen B. Schommer.

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