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News Release

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St. Paul felon indicted for possessing with intent to distribute ecstasy, marijuana

A 37-year-old St. Paul felon was indicted today in federal court in Minneapolis for allegedly possessing with intent to distribute marijuana and the semisynthetic psychedelic drug MDMA, commonly known as ecstasy. Samuel Lamont Seals was charged with one count of possession with intent to distribute marijuana and MDMA and one count of being a felon in possession of a firearm.

The indictment alleges that on June 23, 2010, Seals possessed the marijuana and ecstasy as well as a .40 caliber, semi-automatic pistol. The drugs and gun were found in his residence during the execution of a search warrant in connection with a robbery.

Because he is a felon, Seals is prohibited from possessing firearms or ammunition at any time. His prior Ramsey County convictions include second-degree burglary (1992), fifth-degree possession of a controlled substance (1993), dangerous discharge of a firearm (1993), and possession of a firearm by a convicted felon (1997). Seals also was convicted of first-degree manslaughter in Dakota County (2003) and introducing contraband into prison in Chisago County (2005).

If convicted of the charges now pending against him, Seals faces a potential maximum penalty of 20 years in prison for possession with intent to distribute the noted drugs and ten years for being a felon in possession of a firearm. All sentences will be determined by a federal district court judge.

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 Thomas M. Hollenhorst.

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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.