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News Release

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Felon pleads guilty in Minneapolis Project Exile case

Earlier today in federal court in St. Paul, a 30-year-old felon from Minneapolis pleaded guilty to possession of a nine-millimeter Glock semi-automatic handgun on June 7, 2010. Appearing before United States District Court Judge Donovan W. Frank, Kevin Devon Wallace pleaded guilty to one count of being a felon in possession of a firearm. Wallace was indicted on October 13, 2010.

In his plea agreement, Wallace admitted that on June 7, 2010, he was stopped by Minneapolis police after failing to stop at a stop sign. Subsequently, he consented to a search of his residence, and during that search, officers found the weapon inside a closet.

Because Wallace is a convicted felon, he is prohibited from possessing a firearm at any time. His record includes Cook County, Illinois, convictions for possession of a controlled substance with intent to deliver in 1999 and 2000; a Cook County, Illinois, conviction for possession of a stolen motor vehicle in 1999; and Ramsey County, Minnesota, convictions for terroristic threats in 2004 and second-degree burglary of a dwelling and possession of a controlled substance in 2006.

For his crime, Wallace faces a potential maximum penalty of ten years in prison. Judge Frank will determine his sentence at a future hearing, yet to be scheduled.

This case is the result of an investigation by the Minneapolis Police Department and the U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives-Violent Crime Impact Team ("ATF"). It is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Allen A. Slaughter.

Wallace is one of numerous defendants charged federally through Project Exile

Minneapolis. That law enforcement initiative was launched on July 22, 2010, as part of a City-wide effort to reduce gun violence. Through Project Exile, the Minneapolis Police Department and the ATF work together to apprehend serial criminals for violations of gun laws. Then, the Hennepin County Attorney's Office teams up with the U.S. Attorney's Office to determine where those offenders will most effectively be prosecuted – state or federal court. Those determinations are based on the offenders' criminal histories and current charges, among other factors. To date, the U.S. Attorney's Office has brought charges against close to two dozen serious habitual criminals through Project Exile Minneapolis.

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