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News Release

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Federal jury convicts armed career criminal for possessing a nine-millimeter pistol

MINNEAPOLIS – Recently in federal court, a jury found a 35-year-old felon guilty of possessing a nine-millimeter pistol. On July 8, 2011, following a four-day trial, Jesse Lamond Jones, no known address, was convicted on one count of being a felon in possession of a firearm. Jones was indicted on December 14, 2010.

According to the indictment and evidence presented at trial, Jones was arrested in connection with a series of four shootings in St. Cloud that occurred between April 23 and May 10, 2010. On April 23 shots were fired into a group of people walking in southeast St. Cloud. Just days later, on May 5, two of the victims from April 23 were again targets of a shooting outside a bar in St. Cloud. Then, on May 10, at 4:00 a.m., St. Cloud police received a report of a shooting, locating two bullet holes in the wall of a residence. About seven minutes later, they received another call about a shooting, this one at an apartment complex. They responded and, at the scene, found a woman who had been shot in the hand and needed medical attention. An empty nine-millimeter ammunition magazine was found.

Jones was later arrested at a St. Cloud residence on an active warrant unrelated to the shootings, and officers recovered from the residence a nine-millimeter pistol which was missing its magazine and some additional ammunition. The ammunition was the same brand and caliber as found at the shootings. At each of the shootings, spent shell casings were recovered and ultimately they were all forensically matched as having been shot from the firearm located in the trailer where the defendant was arrested. The defendant's DNA was also found on the firearm.

Because he is a felon, Jones is prohibited under federal law from possessing firearms or ammunition at any time. His prior convictions include second-degree burglary (1998), third-degree sale of a controlled substance (2001), third-degree assault (2005), and simple robbery

(2006). Since at least three of Jones's past felony convictions were for crimes of violence or serious drug offenses, sentencing in the current federal case is subject to the Armed Career Criminal Act which mandates a minimum of 15 years in prison if convicted. United States District Court Judge Joan N. Ericksen will determine his sentence at a future hearing, yet to be scheduled.

This case is the result of an investigation by the St. Cloud Police Department and the U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. It is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorneys LeeAnn K. Bell and Kevin S. Ueland.

Note, this 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 work to make our streets and communities safer.

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