



**United States Department of Justice
United States Attorney's Office
District of Minnesota**

**B. Todd Jones,
United States Attorney**

**Jeanne F. Cooney
Director of Community Relations
(612) 664-5611
email: jeanne.cooney@usdoj.gov**

News Release

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Minneapolis felon sentenced for possessing a .45-caliber pistol

MINNEAPOLIS – Yesterday in federal court, a 32-year-old Minneapolis felon was sentenced for possessing a firearm. United States District Court Judge Ann D. Montgomery sentenced Todd Richard Chazen to 252 months in prison on one count of being a felon in possession of a firearm. Chazen was indicted on December 14, 2010, and was convicted by a jury on March 9, 2011.

According to the evidence presented at trial, on August 14, 2010, Chazen possessed a .45-caliber pistol. A law enforcement affidavit filed in the case indicates that on that day, the Goodhue County Sheriff's Office responded to a report of two suspicious vehicles parked near Cannon Falls. Inside one of the vehicles, authorities found a holster, a document with Chazen's name on it, and a new pair of shoes. Along the road, near the vehicles, officers discovered the pistol inside a shoe box. Upon further investigation, police determined that Chazen had driven one of the vehicles and had removed the shoe box from the trunk just prior to the officer's arrival. He was eventually arrested.

Because Chazen was previously convicted of at least one felony, he is prohibited under federal law from possessing firearms at any time. Chazen's prior convictions include second-degree assault (1995), second-degree burglary (2002), second-degree manufacture of a controlled substance (2002), and second-degree burglary (2003).

This case was the result of an investigation by the Goodhue County Sheriff's Office, the Olmstead County Sheriff's Office, and the U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. It is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Michael A. Dees.

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 are working to make our streets and communities safer.

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