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News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Monday, July 25, 2011
WWW.JUSTICE.GOV/USAO/MN

Minneapolis man sentenced for conspiring to distribute heroin in the Twin Cities

MINNEAPOLIS – Earlier today, the second of two men who earlier pleaded guilty to distributing heroin in the Twin Cities was sentenced to federal prison. United States District Court Judge Ann D. Montgomery sentenced Roy Joseph Keyes, age 39, of Minneapolis, to 60 months in prison on one count of conspiracy to distribute heroin and oxycodone. On June 23, 2010, Keyes was indicted along with co-defendant Ako Kalonji Dennis, age 38, of Des Moines, Iowa. Keyes pleaded guilty on August 18, 2010. Dennis pleaded guilty on August 31, 2010, and on December 28, 2010, was sentenced to 28 months in prison on one count of conspiracy to distribute heroin.

In their plea agreements, the defendants admitted conspiring to distribute heroin in the Twin Cities between 2004 and June 23, 2010. During that time, the men obtained approximately 150 grams of the illegal drug from unnamed sources in Minneapolis, Chicago, and elsewhere. In addition, Keyes admitted obtaining 25 grams (500 tablets) of oxycodone, the narcotic found in the prescription drug oxycontin. The men then distributed both of the controlled substances to customers in the metropolitan area.

This case was the result of an investigation by the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration, the Anoka County Sheriff's Office, the Fridley Police Department, and the Anoka-Hennepin Drug Task Force. It was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Thomas M. Hollenhorst.

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