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News Release

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Felon pleads guilty to possessing .380-caliber pistol, latest in Minneapolis Project Exile campaign

MINNEAPOLIS – Earlier today in federal court in St. Paul, a 27-year-old felon pleaded guilty to possessing a .380-caliber pistol. Ricky Clarence Carter, no known address, pleaded guilty to one count of being a felon in possession of a firearm. Carter, who was indicted on March 16, 2011, entered his plea before United States District Court Judge Susan Richard Nelson.

In his plea agreement, Carter, also known as Lonnie Harron, admitted possessing the gun on March 26, 2010. Because he was previously convicted of at least one felony, Carter is prohibited under federal law from possessing firearms at any time. His prior Hennepin County convictions include violating a no-contact order (2008), domestic assault (2008), and domestic assault by strangulation (2006). Carter also was convicted in Illinois in 1989 for manufacturing or delivering a controlled substance.

If convicted of the charged now levied against him, Carter faces a potential maximum penalty of ten years in federal prison. Judge Nelson 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 Explosive's ("ATF") Violent Crime Impact Team, with assistance from the Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension. It is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Allen A. Slaughter.

Carter is the latest defendant 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 approximately 15 serious habitual criminals through Project Exile Minneapolis.

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