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# **News Release**

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## **Golden Valley felon pleads guilty to possessing two semi-automatic handguns**

Earlier today in federal court in Minneapolis, a 39-year-old felon from Golden Valley pleaded guilty to possessing a .10-caliber, semi-automatic pistol. Appearing before United States District Court Judge Patrick J. Schiltz, Lashawn Kenyatta Nicks pleaded guilty to one count of being a felon in possession of a firearm. Nicks was indicted on November 2, 2010.

In his plea agreement, Nicks admitted that on October 1, 2009, he possessed two firearms: a .10-caliber and a 9-millimeter pistol. The guns were seized by police during the execution of a search warrant at the defendant's apartment. That search occurred in response to a tip.

Because he is a felon, Nicks is prohibited under federal law from possessing firearms at any time. His prior felonies include convictions in Hennepin County for attempted aggravated robbery in 1994 and second-degree assault in 1999, as well as burglary in Illinois in 1991.

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

This case is the result of an investigation by the Golden Valley Police Department and the U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. It is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Julie E. Allyn.

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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