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News Release

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Brooklyn Park felon indicted for possessing Nine-millimeter pistol

A 40-year-old felon from Brooklyn Park was indicted today in federal court in Minneapolis for allegedly possessing a nine-millimeter pistol while participating in a conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute methamphetamine. Leroy Anthony Meadows was charged with one count of being a felon in possession of a firearm and one count of discharging a firearm during and in relation to a drug-trafficking crime.

The indictment alleges that on January 10, 2011, Meadows possessed and fired the Ruger pistol. According to a law enforcement affidavit filed in the case, St. Paul police were called to a shooting at 9:15 p.m. at a residence in the 300 block of Atwater Street. There, officers found a man with an apparent gunshot wound to his right arm. The man told police he was watching television in his living room when a vehicle pulled into his driveway and honked. He went outside, and the driver of the vehicle then, allegedly, fired three to four shots at him through the open passenger-side window.

Officers subsequently spotted the suspect vehicle traveling westbound on Interstate 94 and initiated a traffic stop on Marshall Avenue, on the west side of the Lake Street Bridge. The driver was identified as Meadows. While the vehicle was coming to a stop, officers observed an object being tossed from the passenger-side window. Police later found the pistol on an embankment below the bridge. During the execution of a search warrant on the vehicle, police seized one spent nine-millimeter casing. In addition, police found a metal tablespoon containing methamphetamine residue on Meadows.

Because Meadows has been previously convicted of at least one felony, he is prohibited under federal law from possessing firearms at any time. In 2005, he was convicted in Hennepin County for being a prohibited person in possession of a firearm.

If convicted of the current federal charges, Meadows faces a potential maximum penalty of ten years in prison for being a felon in possession of a firearm and mandatory minimum penalty of ten years for discharging a firearm during a drug-trafficking crime. All sentences will be determined by a federal district court judge.

This case is the result of an investigation by the St. Paul Police Department and the United States Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. It is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Kimberly A. Svendsen.

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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An indictment is a determination by a grand jury that there is probable cause to believe that offenses have been committed by a defendant. A defendant, of course, is presumed innocent until he or she pleads guilty or is proven guilty at trial.