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News Release

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Plymouth felon indicted for possessing nine-millimeter pistol

A federal indictment, unsealed earlier today in Minneapolis, alleges that a Plymouth felon possessed a nine-millimeter pistol on November 29, 2010. The indictment, which was filed on March 16, 2011, charges Nieem Kalif Jones, age 30, with one count of being a felon in possession of a firearm and one count of possession of a firearm with an obliterated serial number. The indictment was unsealed following Jones's initial appearance in federal court.

The indictment alleges that on November 29, 2010, Jones possessed the pistol, which had the serial number removed. Because he has previous felony convictions, Jones is prohibited under federal law from possessing firearms at any time. His prior convictions include assault with a deadly weapon, inflicting serious injury (1998); breaking and entering (1998), larceny (1999); and possession of a firearm by a felon (2001), all of which occurred in North Carolina. Jones also was convicted in Hennepin County in 2005 for theft by swindle.

If convicted of the federal charge presently pending against him, Jones faces a potential maximum penalty of ten years in prison on the felon in possession charge and five years for possession of a firearm with an obliterated serial number. 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 Laura M. Provinzino.

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.

