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# **News Release**

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## **Defendant in Project Exile Minneapolis case pleads guilty to possessing a .22-caliber rifle**

Earlier today in federal court in St. Paul, the first defendant ever charged through Project Exile Minneapolis pleaded guilty to possessing a .22-caliber, semi-automatic rifle on June 1, 2010. Calvin Lorenzo Harris, age 25, of Richfield, pleaded guilty to one count of being a felon in possession of a firearm. He entered his plea before United States District Court Judge Richard H. Kyle. Harris was indicted on September 9, 2010. In his plea agreement, Harris admitted that on June 1, 2010, he possessed the rifle, which had a barrel length of less than 16 inches and an overall length of less than 26 inches.

In this case, officers responded to a 911 call at 2:30 a.m. on June 1, 2010. The call concerned one or more individuals with firearms in front of a Minneapolis apartment building. Harris admitted fleeing into the building when officers arrived on the scene. He was apprehended following a brief foot chase. During the chase, he admittedly dropped the gun.

Because he is a felon, Harris is prohibited from possessing firearms or ammunition at any time. His past convictions include first-degree aggravated robbery in Hennepin County in 2004 and third-degree criminal sexual conduct in Hennepin County in 2006.

Project Exile Minneapolis was launched on July 22, 2010, as part of a city-wide effort to reduce gun violence. The Minneapolis Police Department and the U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives ("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 nearly two dozen serious habitual criminals through Project Exile Minneapolis.

For his crime, Harris faces a potential maximum penalty of ten years in prison. Judge Kyle 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 ATF's Violent Crime Impact Team. It is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Allen A. Slaughter.

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