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News Release

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Felon sentenced for possessing .380-caliber pistol, latest in Minneapolis Project Exile campaign

MINNEAPOLIS – Earlier today in federal court in St. Paul, a 27-year-old felon was sentenced for possessing a .380-caliber pistol. United States District Court Judge Susan Richard Nelson sentenced Ricky Clarence Carter, no known address, to 84 months in prison on one count of being a felon in possession of a firearm. Carter was indicted on March 16, 2011, and pleaded guilty on June 30, 2011.

In his plea agreement, Carter, also known as Lonnie Herron, admitted possessing the gun on March 26, 2010. Because he had been previously convicted of at least one felony, Carter was prohibited under federal law from possessing firearms at any time. His prior Hennepin County convictions included 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.

This case was 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 sentenced 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 18 serious habitual criminals

through Project Exile Minneapolis.

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