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News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Friday, September 16, 2011
WWW.JUSTICE.GOV/USAO/MN

White Bear Lake man sentenced for possessing a .357-revolver

MINNEAPOLIS – Earlier today in federal court, a 36-year-old White Bear Lake man was sentenced for possessing a .357-caliber revolver. United States District Court Judge Patrick J. Schiltz sentenced James Michael Diederich to 85 months in prison on one count of being a felon in possession of a firearm. Diederich was indicted on December 21, 2010, and pleaded guilty on April 26, 2011.

In his plea agreement, Diederich admitted that September 27, 2010, he had the gun inside a backpack while driving another person's vehicle. Police found the gun in Diederich's possession after an encounter on the street.

Because he is a felon, Diederich is prohibited under federal law from possessing firearms or ammunition at any time. His prior convictions include attempted possession of a firearm by an ineligible person (2008), aggravated forgery (2007), possession with intent to distribute drugs (2003), fifth-degree possession of drugs (2001), and second-degree possession of drugs (2001).

This case was the result of an investigation by the South St. Paul Police Department and the U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. It was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Jeffrey S. Paulsen.

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 work to make our streets and communities safer.

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