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News Release

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Richfield man sentenced for mailing a threat to kill and injure co-workers

MINNEAPOLIS – Earlier today in federal court, a 45-year-old Richfield man was sentenced for mailing a letter that contained a threat to kill and injure several employees of the Embassy Suites Hotel in Bloomington, where he also worked. United States District Court Judge Joan N. Ericksen sentenced Peter Winston Beckles to four years of probation, along with 150 hours of community service on one count of mailing a threatening communication. In addition, Beckles was ordered to pay \$8,103.72 in restitution. Beckles was charged on March 7, 2011, and pleaded guilty on March 21, 2011.

In his plea agreement, Beckles admitted that on June 1, 2010, he mailed a letter to the Bloomington hotel's parent company, Hilton Hotel, in Memphis, Tennessee. The letter described the race-based hostilities he harbored toward a number of his co-workers at Embassy Suites. It also included threats to injure and even kill many of them.

This case was the result of an investigation by the Federal Bureau of Investigation. It was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Jeffrey S. Paulsen.

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