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# **News Release**

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## **Minneapolis police officer pleads guilty to filing false tax returns, unauthorized access to a protected computer**

A Minneapolis Police officer pleaded guilty today in federal court to one count of unauthorized access to a protected computer and three counts of filing false tax returns.

Michael D. Roberts, 59, entered his plea May 14 in St. Paul before United States District Court Judge Richard Kyle. The plea comes following four days of Roberts's trial. Roberts, who was a police officer with the Minneapolis Police Department at the time of the offenses, was indicted on July 14, 2008.

According to Roberts's plea agreement, he admitted that on Aug. 9, 2007, he used a police radio to contact Minneapolis Police Dispatch, cause a National Crime Information Center Internet inquiry and obtain non-public information from the Minnesota Driver and Vehicle Services database regarding a license plate he was asked about. Roberts admitted he did this while working off-duty as a security guard at a Minneapolis restaurant.

Roberts also admitted that while accessing this information, he concealed from the police department that the request was not law enforcement related. Roberts also admitted that he received \$100 for conducting the search.

According to the plea agreement, on another occasion, Roberts met with a man on Aug. 14, 2007, identifying himself as a member of the Gangster Disciples street gang who asked Roberts to find out information about a member of a rival gang and also to look up information about whether a person had provided information about him to law enforcement. They met in Roberts's squad car, while he was off-duty working as a security guard, and Roberts admitted using his squad car computer to locate information. Roberts admitted that at the conclusion of this meeting, he received \$100 for looking up this information. Roberts also admitted that he later filed a false police report regarding the Aug. 14 meeting.

Roberts admitted that from 2004 through April 2008 he worked off-duty security jobs for several businesses and was paid in cash in excess of \$100,000. One of those businesses, Pizza

Luce, did not report the income to the Internal Revenue Service. Roberts admitted he did not pay taxes on this income and failed to report the income to the IRS for tax years 2004 through 2007. Roberts also admitted that he failed to report the \$200 he was paid in exchange for illegally obtaining confidential law enforcement data.

Roberts faces a potential maximum penalty five years on the unauthorized access count and three years on each filing false claims count. Judge Kyle will determine Roberts's sentence at a future date.

This case is the result of an investigation by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Minneapolis Police Department and the IRS-Criminal Investigation Division. It is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorneys Tim Rank and Christian S. Wilton.