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# **News Release**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## **Man indicted for possessing a firearm as a felon**

A 28-year-old man was indicted yesterday in federal court on one count of being a felon in possession of a firearm. Anton Lamont Burnes was charged Aug. 12 in Minneapolis.

His indictment alleges that on July 28 he knowingly possessed a Smith and Wesson .9-millimeter pistol. Burnes had been previously convicted of felony crimes in two Minnesota counties between 1998 and 2006, including assaults in Ramsey County (1998 and 2002) and fleeing police in a motor vehicle in both Ramsey (2005) and Washington (2006) counties.

According to a United States Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) affidavit, St. Paul Police were looking for Burnes on an active probable cause warrant and located him in a St. Paul bar on July 28. Officers found a loaded .9-millimeter pistol tucked into his sock, and arrested him.

If convicted, Burnes faces a potential maximum penalty of life in prison. All sentences are determined by a federal district court judge. This case is the result of an investigation by the St. Paul Police Department and the ATF, and is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Erica H. MacDonald.

This case is part of Project Safe Neighborhoods (PSN), a comprehensive, strategic approach to reducing gun crime in America that was launched in 2001. It networks existing local programs that target gun crime and provides them with additional tools in the effort to make our streets and communities a much more safe place.

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An indictment is a determination by a grand jury that there is probable cause to believe that offenses have been committed by the defendant. The defendant, of course, is presumed innocent until he or she pleads guilty or is proven guilty at trial.