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NEWS RELEASE

**WEST ST. PAUL MAN CHARGED WITH ATTEMPTED MURDER OF
INVER GROVE HEIGHTS POLICE OFFICERS**

Dakota County Attorney James Backstrom announced that Justin Thadeus Amick, age 39 of West St. Paul, has been charged* with one count each of Attempted Murder in the First Degree (Intent to Kill a Peace Officer), Attempted Murder in the Second Degree, Assault in the Second Degree and Ineligible Person in Possession of a Firearm (all felonies) in connection with allegations of shooting at two police officers in Inver Grove Heights on March 18, 2012.

According to the Dakota County Sheriff's Office who investigated this matter, two Inver Grove Heights police officers responded to a caller stating they heard shots fired in the early morning hours of Sunday, March 18th on a road near the Mississippi River in Inver Grove Heights. As officers approached a vehicle shortly before 5:00 a.m., the driver was seen pointing a gun at the officers and firing two shots directly at them. Neither officer was struck. The suspect was observed throwing a gun towards police and then leaving in the vehicle at a high rate of speed. Police were able to locate the suspect and the vehicle a short time later at a building in West St. Paul. When the suspect fled from the building, he was arrested by police.

Additional facts pertaining to this case are contained in the criminal complaint which can be found online at <http://services.co.dakota.mn.us/ComplaintSearch>. While in custody, a mug shot can be viewed at <http://services.co.dakota.mn.us/InmateSearch>.

Backstrom commented: "This was a direct threat to the lives of two police officers. We are thankful that these officers or others in the area were not struck by this gunfire."

Backstrom praised the efforts of the Inver Grove Heights police officers who responded to this citizen call and thanked the Dakota County Sheriff's Office who assisted in this case for their quick and thorough investigation.

Amick made his first appearance in court today and bail in the amount of \$1,000,000 without conditions (\$500,000 with conditions) was set by Dakota County District Court Judge Jerome Abrams. Amick's next court appearance is set for May 8, 2012 at 9:00 a.m. in Hastings.

If you have questions, contact James Backstrom at 651-438-4440.

**Criminal charges are not evidence of guilt. A defendant/suspect is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.*