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**NEWS RELEASE**

**MAN SENTENCED FOR ATTACK ON YOUTH HOCKEY COACH**

Dakota County Attorney James Backstrom announced that Thomas Angelo Tonda, age 50 of St. Paul, was sentenced today by Judge Timothy McManus to 180 days in jail (with a stayed prison sentence of 21 months in the event that Tonda does not remain law abiding or otherwise violates his 5-year probation period). Additionally, Tonda must perform 350 hours of community work service and 50 days of sentence to service (also a form of community work service).

This sentence was handed down in connection with Tonda's attack on the assistant coach of his son's youth hockey team on December 6, 2011 in Inver Grove Heights. Tonda began screaming at the coach after the coach had provided instructions to Tonda's son pertaining to an on-ice practice incident and then placed the victim in a choke hold and verbally threatened to kill the coach as he left the area. Tonda was charged December 22, 2011 with Terroristic Threats (a felony) and Assault in the Fifth Degree (a misdemeanor). Tonda pled guilty to Terroristic Threats on August 17, 2012.

Additional facts pertaining to this case can be found in the criminal complaint available 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: "Assaulting and threatening a youth athletics coach in this manner is extremely disturbing behavior. We are pleased to have brought Thomas Tonda to justice for his criminal conduct."

If you have questions, contact James Backstrom at 651-438-4438.