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NEWS RELEASE

ROCHESTER MAN SENTENCED FOR 11TH DWI

Dakota County Attorney James Backstrom announced that Michael Allan Andrist, age 47 of Rochester, was sentenced today to 60 months in prison by Judge Tim Wermager in connection with his 11th DWI conviction. Andrist pled guilty to Felony Driving While Impaired on February 29, 2012. The investigation revealed that on July 3, 2011 the defendant was traveling 70 miles per hour on the shoulder of Highway 52 and repeatedly went into the ditch. Numerous 911 calls from other concerned drivers were made to report this dangerous driving behavior.

Backstrom noted that Andrist had 10 prior DWI convictions (this was his second felony DWI conviction) and three convictions for Fleeing Police Officers in a Motor Vehicle, among other convictions. Based upon field sobriety tests and statements made by the Defendant, Dakota County Sheriff's deputies concluded that Andrist was under the influence of a controlled substance. Tests completed by the Bureau of Criminal Apprehension revealed Andrist had been using cocaine and methamphetamine.

For a copy of the criminal complaint, go to <http://services.co.dakota.mn.us/CriminalComplaintSearch>. A mug shot may be viewed at <http://services.co.dakota.mn.us/InmateSearch> while in custody.

Backstrom commented: "This is an offender with a lengthy history of endangering the public while driving impaired. We are pleased to have held him accountable for his latest criminal violation."

Backstrom praised the Assistant Dakota County Attorney Scott Hersey who prosecuted the cases. Backstrom also commended the Dakota County Sheriff's Office for their ongoing efforts to apprehend impaired drivers on our roadways.

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