## OFFICE OF DAKOTA COUNTY ATTORNEY JAMES C. BACKSTROM

COUNTY ATTORNEY



Dakota County Judicial Center 1560 Highway 55 Hastings, Minnesota 55033-2392 Phillip D. Prokopowicz, Chief Deputy Karen A. Schaffer, First Assistant Monica Jensen, Community Relations Director January 11, 2012

## **NEWS RELEASE**

## MAN CHARGED WITH CRIMINAL VEHICULAR OPERATION FOR DRAGGING FRIEND WHO TRIED TO STOP HIM FROM DRIVING WHILE INTOXICATED

Dakota County Attorney James Backstrom announced that Jason Lee Schultz, age 24 of West St. Paul, has been charged\* with Criminal Vehicular Operation (a felony) and Driving While Impaired in the Third Degree (a gross misdemeanor) in connection with an incident that took place on January 6, 2012 in West St. Paul. In an effort to stop Schultz from driving while intoxicated, his friend who had reached into the vehicle to remove the keys from the ignition was dragged approximately two blocks as he hung out the driver's side window. The victim suffered serious head trauma, among other injuries.

For a copy of the criminal complaint, go to <u>http://services.co.dakota.mn.us/ComplaintSearch</u>.

Backstrom commented: "It is a tragedy to see a person trying to do the right thing and prevent his friend from driving while intoxicated injured so severely. We hope the victim is able to fully recover from his serious injuries."

Schultz previously posted bail in the amount of \$75,000 and must comply with various conditions set by Judge David Knutson. His first court appearance is set for Monday, February 27, 2012 at 8:30 a.m. in Hastings.

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