

## **PRESS RELEASE**

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### **LOCAL MAN SENTENCED TO PRISON FOR 2016 CONVENIENCE STORE ARMED ROBBERY AFTER COLD-HIT DNA MATCH LINKED HIM TO EVIDENCE**

Carver County Attorney Mark Metz announces that on November 3, 2017, Carver County District Court Judge Janet Barke Cain sentenced Nash James Kittelson, age 20, a Cologne resident, to a prison term of 60 months for robbing a Chaska Super America store at knife point on April 16, 2016. According to the criminal complaint filed by the Carver County Attorney's Office, a masked man entered the Super America at 1400 Crystal Lane, Chaska, at 10:55 p.m. on April 16, 2016, and approached the store's clerk who was the lone employee on duty. The masked man pointed a box cutter knife toward the clerk and demanded money. The clerk immediately handed over the cash register drawer, which held \$180.59, and the masked man fled the store. Chaska Police arrived quickly but found no suspects. They reviewed surveillance video and determined the clothing, race, and build of the robber, as well as some of his facial features that were not covered by his mask. Police found the empty cash drawer nearby and some clothing on Chaska Boulevard that matched items worn by the robber. Other than the cash drawer and clothing, police had no other clues and the robbery remained an unsolved crime.

In September 2016, the Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension tested DNA found on the clothing and determined that some DNA matched a known DNA profile of Kittelson. Kittelson was serving a prison sentence on an unrelated crime at the time. Chaska Police Lieutenant Rachel Nelson investigated further and found other evidence linking Kittelson to the robbery. When questioned about the robbery, Kittelson denied robbing the store and claimed to be at another location. Data from Kittelson's cellphone contradicted his account and established that he was in the area of the Super America when it was robbed. Police determined that the clothing found at the scene was owned by another man who was an acquaintance of Kittelson. The man was incarcerated at the time of the robbery, but Kittelson was known to wear his clothing occasionally. Kittelson's physical appearance matched the suspect in the surveillance video including some key facial features.

On August 31, 2017, Kittelson entered a plea agreement and admitted that he robbed the Super America. At sentencing on November 3, 2017, he was sentenced to 60 months in prison and received custody credit for some of the time that he was incarcerated following the robbery. County Attorney Metz wishes to recognize the diligent police work of Lieutenant Nelson in solving the case.

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