

**ORIGINAL OFFENSE / INCIDENT REPORT**

Complaint Number      Reference CN

15228902

Date and Time of Report

10/22/2015 15:16:00

Primary offense:

ADMIN-INVESTIGATE,ADMINISTRATIVE RECORD

Primary Reporting Officer: Aguirre, Rigoberto B

Name of location/business:

Primary squad: 862

Location of incident: 367 GROVE ST

Secondary reporting officer:

ST PAUL, MN 55104

Approver: Murphy, Shawn

District: Western

Date &amp; time of occurrence: 10/22/2015 13:50:00 to

Site:

10/22/2015 15:16:00

Arrest made:

Secondary offense:

Police Officer Assaulted or Injured:

Police Officer Assisted Suicide:

Crime Scene Processed:

**OFFENSE DETAILS**

ADMIN-INVESTIGATE,ADMINISTRATIVE RECORD

Attempt Only:

Appears to be Gang Related:

**NAMES**

Suspect

UNKNOWN

**Nicknames or Aliases**

Nick Name:

Alias:

AKA First Name:

AKA Last Name:

**Details**

Sex:

Race:

DOB:

Resident Status:

Hispanic:

Age:

from

to

**Phones**

Home:

Cell:

Contact:

Work:

Fax:

Pager:

**Employment**

Occupation:

Employer:

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**Identification**

SSN:

License or ID#:

License State:

**Physical Description**

US:

Metric:

Height:      to

Build:

Hair Length:

Hair Color:

Weight:      to

Skin:

Facial Hair:

Hair Type:

Teeth:

Eye Color:

Blood Type:

**Offender Information**

Arrested:

Pursuit engaged:

Violated Restraining Order:

DUI:

Resistance encountered:

Condition:

Taken to health care facility:

Medical release obtained:

**Victim**

ST PAUL, MN

**Nicknames or Aliases**

Nick Name:

Alias:

AKA First Name:

AKA Last Name:

**Details**

Sex:

Race:

DOB:

Resident Status:

Hispanic:

Age:

from

to

**Phones**

Home:

Cell:

Contact:

Work:

Fax:

Pager:

**Employment**

Occupation:

Employer:

**Identification**

SSN:

License or ID#:

License State:

**Victim Information**

Type: Government

Can Identify Offender: No

Willing to Press Charges: No

Condition:

Taken to health care facility: No

Medical release obtained: No

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**SOLVABILITY FACTORS**

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Suspect can be Identified:

By:

Photos Taken:

Stolen Property Traceable:

Evidence Turned In:

Property Turned In:

Related Incident:

Lab

Biological Analysis:

Fingerprints Taken:

Narcotic Analysis:

Items Fingerprinted:

Lab Comments:

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**PROPERTY**

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ITEM #1

Type of Loss: Recovered

Date of Loss:

Location Lost:

Owner:

Date Recovered: 10/22/2015      Location Recovered: 367 Grove Street

Model #:

Quantity: 1

Serial #:

Article Type / Item: Other property      / Miscellaneous items

Total value:

Description: Marlboro lights Gold pack with Nebraska Sticker

Turned in at: Property room locker

Locker ID #: 30

Lab exams:

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**Participants:**

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Person Type:

Name:

Address:

Phone:

Suspect

Victim

ST PAUL, MN

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**NARRATIVE**

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On going investigation.

Cigarette buy with out of state tax stamp.

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**PUBLIC NARRATIVE**

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On Going investigation

**SUPPLEMENTAL OFFENSE / INCIDENT REPORT**

Complaint Number      Reference CN

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12/15/2015 10:16:00

Primary offense:

ADMIN-INVESTIGATE,ADMINISTRATIVE RECORD

Primary Reporting Officer: Aguirre, Rigoberto B

Name of location/business:

Primary squad:

Location of incident: 367 GROVE ST

Secondary reporting officer:

ST PAUL, MN 55104

Approver:

District: Western

Date &amp; time of occurrence: 10/22/2015 13:50:00 to

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Secondary offense:

Police Officer Assaulted or Injured:

Police Officer Assisted Suicide:

Crime Scene Processed:

**NARRATIVE**

I, Sergeant Rigo Aguirre (Sqd #862) am currently a member of the Saint Paul Police VICE Unit and I am assigned to work and assist the Saint Paul Department of Safety and Inspections (DSI).

I received a Crime Stoppers tip dated October 7, 2015. Crime Stoppers is a program in which citizens can give the police an anonymous tip. The tip stated: "Little Grocery on 1724 university ave st paul 55104 is selling cigarettes stamped in Nebraska"

On October 22, 2015, I went to 1724 W University Ave in St. Paul. The address was a small convenience store with the name "Little Grocery" on the outside. I went inside and approached the front counter. Your affiant spoke to a dark skinned black male about 65y, 6'1", and average build, later identified as DEMISSE, GETACHEW MENGESHA (6-1-50). Your affiant asked for a pack of Marlboro Light cigarettes. The male reached under the counter retrieved the cigarettes. I gave DEMISSE money in exchange for the cigarettes. I then left the store.

I examined the pack of cigarettes located a Nebraska tax stamp #72525 (see pictures)

I spoke with Saint Paul Department of Safety and Inspections (DSI) investigator Kris Schweinler. She advised me of the following:

-Little Grocery at 1724 W University had an expired tobacco license as of October 13, 2015 but they renewed it on October 26, 2015.

-August 6, 2014- City of Saint Paul fined the store for a Department of Revenue tobacco violation. Per DSI information, in February of 2014 the Department of Revenue seized tobacco considered contraband.

-DSI records show the owner of Little Grocery as MENGESHA, MEZEKER G (4-26-1980)

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October 23, 2015, I met with the Criminal Investigative Division (CID) of the Department of Revenue and learned the following:

-The Department of Revenue conducted an investigation in which tobacco was seized as contraband in February of 2014.

-The Nebraska tax stamp (#72525) indicated that the cigarettes were sold in Nebraska on October 9, 2015.

On November 4, 2015, I again went to 1724 W University Ave in St. Paul. I went inside and approached the front counter. I spoke DEMISSE, GETACHEW MENGESHA (6-1-50). I asked for a pack of Marlboro Light cigarettes. The DEMISSE reached under the counter and retrieved the cigarettes. I gave DEMISSE money in exchange for the cigarettes. I then left the store.

Based on the information gathered during this investigation, I believed the following;

-Because the first complaint (via Crime Stoppers) came in on October 8, 2015, I believed that cigarettes from the complaint would have had Nebraska tax stamps with numbers indicating that they were sold/taxed in Nebraska on or before October 8, 2015.

-I purchased cigarettes with the Nebraska tax stamp on October 22, 2015 which indicates the sale and tax evasion continues. Based on the information gathered by the Department of Revenue using the tax stamp (#72525) on the cigarettes, the cigarettes were not sold/ taxed in Nebraska until October 9, 2015. This indicates that the cigarettes mentioned in the tip (October 8, 2015) were from a different batch of cigarettes than the cigarettes I purchased.

-I also purchased cigarettes on November 4, 2015 with Nebraska Tax Stamp # 72525. This is the same batch as October 22, 2015.

-The "Crime Stoppers tip, the purchase of cigarettes on October 22, 2015 and November 4, 2015 would indicate that the criminal activity was ongoing versus a one-time event.

On November 5, 2015, I presented a search warrant to Ramsey County Judge Tilsen for 1724 W University and DEMISSE, GETACHEW MENGESHA (6-1-1950). Judge Tilsen signed and approved the warrant.

On November 10, 2015 at approximately 1530 hours, I executed the search warrant at 1724 W University Ave. The following assisted:

Sergeant Shawn Murphy  
Sergeant Ray Gainey  
Sergeant Sean Johnson  
Deputy Kevin Vanderhyde (Ramsey Co)  
Officer Curtis Paipoovong (WBL)

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Inspector Kris Schweinler (DSI)

I led the team into the store. We entered through the front open door and I immediately saw DEMISSE behind the counter. I detained him while the rest of the officers secured the store.

I searched under the counter where I had previously observed DEMISSE retrieve the Nebraska stamped cigarettes on October 22 and November 4, 2015.

I briefly spoke to DEMISSE and told him why we were executing the search warrant. I gave him my contact information and told him to tell the owner of the store, his daughter, to call me. I left a copy of the search warrant and inventory receipt with DIMISSE on the front counter.

We recovered the following items during the search:

## Item # 1

Bag with packs of cigarettes located in storage room, on the floor. Found by Vanderhyde.

Camel Crush carton with 3 packs of Camel crush inside. MN Tax Stamped.

Marlboro Gold Pack carton with 4 packs of Marlboro Gold inside. MN Tax Stamped.

Marlboro Menthol carton with 1 pack inside. MN Tax Stamped.

## Item # 2A

Cigarettes located in the overhead display at cashier counter. Found by Aguirre.

5 packs of Maverick Menthol 100's, removed Nebraska tax stamp.

1 Newport box pack with removed Nebraska tax stamp.

## Item # 2B

22 packs with MN tax stamps were later returned to owner (2 Marlboro 100s gold, 2 Marlboro Gold, 2 Pal-Mal, 5 Camel Crush, 4 Marlboro Menthol, 5 Newport, 2 Newport 100s)

## Item # 3A

Cigarettes located on display shelf behind counter

10 packs of cigarettes with tax stamp removed, looks like Nebraska. (Newport-Non-menthol, Newport non-menthol 100s, Marlboro box, Marlboro 100s, Camel Crush menthol, Marlboro menthol 100s, Camel Blue 99s, Camel blue, Maverick Menthol 100's, Maverick 100s)

## Item # 3B

6 packs of cigarettes with MN tax stamps (Newport Box, Newport 100s, Camel Crush, American Spirit, Marlboro Gold, Marlboro Menthol). Later returned to owner.

## Item #4A

Cartons of cigarettes located under cashier counter.

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4 packs of Newport with Nebraska Stamp # 72015 and others unreadable.  
9 packs of Camel Blue 99s with Nebraska tax stamp # 72210.  
3 packs of Maverick Menthol 100s with Nebraska Tax Stamp # 71892  
6 packs of Marlboro Menthol 100s with Nebraska tax stamp # 72370.  
4 packs Newport non-menthol. 3 with Tax stamp # 72370 other with no stamp.  
2 packs of Newport non-menthol 100s with Nebraska tax stamp #72370.  
6 pack of Marlboro Menthol with Nebraska tax stamp #72370.

## Item #4B

6 packs of Maverick Menthol 100s with Nebraska Tax Stamp # 72324. In carton.  
7 packs of Marlboro with Nebraska Tax Stamp # 72513. In carton.  
9 packs of Camel Blue with Nebraska Tax Stamp # 72370. In carton.  
8 packs of Camel Crush Menthol with Nebraska Tax Stamp # 72479. In carton.  
16 packs of Marlboro 100s with Nebraska Tax Stamp # 72370. In 2 cartons  
    10 packs of Newport non-menthol with Nebraska Tax Stamp # 72324. In carton.  
    8 packs of Marlboro Gold with Nebraska Tax Stamp # 72225. In carton.  
10 pack of Marlboro Menthol with Nebraska tax stamp #72370. In carton.  
10 pack of Marlboro Menthol 100s with Nebraska tax stamp #72370. In carton.  
9 pack of American Spirits with Nebraska tax stamp #72370. In carton.  
5 pack of Marlboro 100s with Nebraska tax stamp #72332. In carton.  
6 packs of Maverick 100s with Nebraska Tax Stamp # 72324. In carton.  
9 packs of Camel Crush with Nebraska tax stamp # 72329. In Carton.

## Item # 5

Miscellaneous papers from behind the counter. Found by Aguirre.  
Papers included invoices for tobacco and other store items. Included Daily balances/ Inventory. All later returned to owner.

## Item #6

Cartons located in the rear of store.  
Marlboro Gold carton with 10 packs. Nebraska tax stamp # 75525. (opened by Sgt. Aguirre)  
Camel Crush Carton with 10 packs. Nebraska tax stamp # 71892. (opened by Sgt. Aguirre)  
Maverick Menthol Box 100's with 10 packs. Nebraska tax stamp # 71892(opened by Sgt. Aguirre)  
Camel Blue carton with 10 packs. Nebraska tax stamp # 72370(opened by Sgt. Aguirre)

No further at this time.

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**PUBLIC NARRATIVE**