

## **PRESS RELEASE**

September 19, 2017

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### **FORMER CHASKA RESIDENT SENTENCED TO 60 MONTHS IN PRISON FOR BUSINESS SWINDLE**

Carver County Attorney Mark Metz announces that on September 19, 2017, Carver County District Court Judge Eric Braaten sentenced Patrick Michael Lewis, age 42, a former resident of Chaska, Minnesota, to a prison term of 60 months for swindling \$61,000.00 from a Lakeville man in a boat-buying business venture. According to an investigation by Chaska Police, Lewis befriended the victim at an entrepreneur's meeting they attended in 2014. The victim owned a local carpet-cleaning business. Lewis and the victim became friends. Lewis shared a business idea in which they would buy used boats at auctions, refit the boats, and then sell them later for profit. The two entered into a business agreement and the victim provided Lewis with \$61,000.00 over a 26-month period, beginning in March of 2014. During this time, Lewis pretended to be attending auctions and buying boats. In late 2016, the victim became suspicious of Lewis and confronted him. Lewis admitted that he had spent all of the victim's money and that he never purchased any boats. The two went to Chaska Police in December 2016. Lewis admitted to a Chaska Police detective that he had spent the victim's money, he never bought any boats, and that he never intended to go into the boat buying and selling business. Lewis acknowledged that he was probably going to prison for swindling the victim and that he had previously spent 40 months in prison for other frauds.

At the sentencing hearing on September 19, 2017, the victim described the financial and emotional devastation when he learned that Lewis had swindled him. The \$61,000.00 was hard-earned profit that he has saved over several years from his cleaning business. First Assistant Carver County Attorney Dave Hunt noted that Lewis' criminal history included 11 convictions for theft by swindle and false representation, beginning in 1999. Judge Braaten sentenced Lewis to 60 months in prison with credit for 173 days already spent in custody. He hoped that Lewis would repay the victim once he served out his prison term. Presently, Lewis has pending fraud-related cases in Wright County, Minnesota, and Polk County, Wisconsin.

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