



# NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

**TODD P. GRAVES**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

PROJECT CEASEFIRE  
**300<sup>th</sup> DEFENDANT SENTENCED**  
**FOR FEDERAL FIREARMS VIOLATION**

**KANSAS CITY, Mo.** – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a Kansas City man was sentenced in federal court today for violating a federal firearms law. This case marks additional progress under Project Ceasefire, the district's ongoing anti-crime initiative, which has now sentenced 300 defendants since its inception.

**Odell Hampton, Jr.**, 26, of Kansas City, Mo., was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Ortrie D. Smith this morning to 10 years in federal prison without parole.

On Dec. 6, 2002, **Hampton** pleaded guilty in federal court to being a felon in possession of a firearm. By pleading guilty, **Hampton** admitted that he was in possession of a Llama .380 caliber semi-automatic handgun on June 15, 2002. Possession of any firearm at that time would have been illegal, Graves explained, due to **Hampton's** 1994 criminal felony conviction for first degree tampering, 1996 criminal felony conviction for sale of a controlled substance, 1998 criminal felony conviction for possession of a controlled substance and 1998 criminal felony conviction for possession of a controlled substance.

At the time law enforcement officers were seeking to arrest **Hampton**, they became engaged in a car chase with the defendant, who ultimately wrecked his truck in a ditch. At that time, **Hampton** also struck and seriously injured a Kansas City police officer with his vehicle. Graves noted that the U.S. Attorney's Office sought the maximum sentence for Hampton because of his attempt to elude arrest.

This case was prosecuted by Special Assistant U.S. Attorney Michael J. Hunt. It was investigated by the Kansas City, Mo. Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms.

**Project Ceasefire**

Project Ceasefire, launched in October 1999, is a cooperative initiative by federal and local law enforcement and the Kansas City Crime Commission that targets persons who unlawfully use or possess firearms for federal prosecution. Project Ceasefire has resulted in federal charges against 415 defendants, and convictions against 345 of those defendants, including 322 who pleaded guilty and 23 who were convicted at trial. A total of 300 of the 345 convicted defendants have been sentenced, and 45 currently await sentencing hearings.

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This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at

[www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow](http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow)