



NEWS RELEASE

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WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

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JUNE 17, 2003

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PROJECT CEASEFIRE
TWO FELONS SENTENCED
FOR POSSESSING FIREARMS, AMMUNITION

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced today that a Kansas City, Mo., man and an Independence, Mo., man have been sentenced, in separate and unrelated cases, for being felons in possession of firearms and ammunition. Today's sentencings are part of Project Ceasefire, the district's ongoing anti-crime initiative.

* **Jerome Williams**, 41, of Kansas City, Mo., was sentenced by U.S. District Chief Judge Dean Whipple this morning to four years and nine months in federal prison without parole for being a felon in possession of firearm.

On March 12, 2003, **Williams** pleaded guilty in federal court to being a felon in possession of a Taurus .357 caliber, five-shot revolver and a Luger 9 mm semi-automatic pistol on Jan. 3, 2003. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for any felon to be in possession of any firearm or ammunition. **Williams** has a 1994 criminal felony conviction for possession with intent to distribute PCP.

Williams was originally charged in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury on Jan. 7, 2003, in Kansas City.

This case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Paul S. Becker. It was investigated by the Jackson County, Mo., Drug Task Force and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

* **Michael E. Harris**, 36, of Independence, Mo., was sentenced by U.S. District Chief Judge Dean Whipple this morning to one year and one day in federal prison without parole for being a felon in possession of ammunition.

On Feb. 7, 2003, **Harris** pleaded guilty in federal court to being a felon in possession of two live rounds of .38 caliber RP ammunition and one live round of .38 caliber WW ammunition in Harrisonville, Mo., on Sept. 25, 2002. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for any felon to be in possession of any firearm or ammunition. **Harris** has a 1984 criminal felony conviction for possession of a controlled substance.

Harris was originally indicted by a federal grand jury on Nov. 5, 2002, in Kansas City.

This case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Paul S. Becker. It was investigated by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives and the Cass County, Mo., Sheriff's Department.

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 for federal prosecution persons who unlawfully use or possess firearms. Project Ceasefire has resulted in federal charges against 437 defendants, and convictions against 376 of those defendants, including 352 who pleaded guilty and 24 who were convicted at trial. A total of 332 of the 376 convicted defendants have been sentenced, and 44 currently await sentencing hearings.

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