



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

UPDATE: PROJECT CEASEFIRE
**KC MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO POSSESSION OF FIREARM
FOLLOWING SHOOTING**

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced today that a Kansas City, Mo., man pleaded guilty in federal court to illegal possession of a firearm. The case is being prosecuted under Project Ceasefire, the district's ongoing anti-crime initiative.

Maurice B. Brown, 36, of Kansas City, Mo., pleaded guilty before U.S. District Judge Ortrie D. Smith this morning to being a felon in possession of a firearm.

By pleading guilty, **Brown** admitted that he was in possession of a loaded RG Industries .22 caliber revolver on March 18, 2003. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for anyone who has been convicted of a felony to be in possession of any firearm or ammunition. **Brown** has a prior criminal felony conviction for aiding and abetting assault of a federal officer by use of a deadly weapon, and a prior criminal felony conviction for aiding and abetting use of a firearm during a crime of violence.

Brown was originally charged with being a felon in possession of a firearm in a criminal complaint filed in Kansas City on March 19, 2003. Graves noted that the federal charge followed a dispute in which two men were shot.

According to an affidavit filed in support of the criminal complaint, officers of the Kansas City, Mo., Police Department responded to a report of a shooting at 4210 Harrison, Kansas City, Mo., at about 5:49 p.m. on March 18, 2003. The affidavit alleges that **Brown** had been in a fight with two men, then went to his girlfriend's house to get the revolver. **Brown** returned and challenged the men again, the affidavit says, shooting one of the men in the arm; a second shot allegedly nicked the second victim in the back of the head as he ran away.

Immediately afterward, police officers found a vehicle matching the description of the suspect vehicle parked in the driveway at 4037 Forest, Kansas City, Mo., and conducted a check of the residence. They found **Brown** in a second-floor bedroom and arrested him.

The criminal complaint was replaced by an indictment returned by a federal grand jury in on April 2, 2003, in Kansas City.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Paul S. Becker. The case was investigated by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms and the Kansas City, Mo., Police 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.

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

