



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PROJECT CEASEFIRE
KC FELON SENTENCED FOR ILLEGALLY
POSSESSING FIREARM ON INDEPENDENCE AVE.

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 being a felon in possession of a firearm. The case marks additional progress under Project Ceasefire, the district's ongoing anti-crime initiative.

Michael L. Cooley, 31, of Kansas City, Mo., was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Nanette K. Laughrey this afternoon to one year and one day in federal prison without parole.

On March 27, 2003, **Cooley** pleaded guilty to being a felon in possession a firearm. By pleading guilty, **Cooley** admitted to being in possession of a R.G. Industries .38 caliber revolver on March 5, 2003. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for any felon to be in possession of any firearm or ammunition. **Cooley** has two 1998 criminal felony convictions for possession of a controlled substance and carrying a concealed weapon.

Cooley was initially charged with being a felon in possession of a firearm in a criminal complaint filed on March 6, 2003, in Kansas City. The criminal complaint was later replaced by an indictment that was returned by a federal grand jury on March 11, 2003, in Kansas City. According to an affidavit filed in support of the criminal complaint, **Cooley** was arrested following a traffic stop on Independence Ave. At that time, he was in possession of the firearm.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Bruce E. Clark. It was investigated by the Kansas City, Mo., Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

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 459 defendants, and convictions against 391 of those defendants, including 366 who pleaded guilty and 25 who were convicted at trial. A total of 337 of the 391 convicted defendants have been sentenced, and 54 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