



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

UPDATE: PROJECT CEASEFIRE
KC FELON PLEADS GUILTY FOR VIOLATING
FEDERAL FIREARM LAW

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a Kansas City, Mo., man pleaded guilty 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.

Dwane D. Davis, 25, of Kansas City, Mo., pleaded guilty before U.S. District Chief Judge Dean Whipple this morning to being a felon in possession of a firearm.

Davis pleaded guilty to an indictment returned by a federal grand jury in Kansas City on Jan. 28, 2003. By pleading guilty, **Davis** admitted that he was in possession of a Ruger .223 caliber rifle on Sept. 28, 2002. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for anyone convicted of a felony to be in possession of any firearm or ammunition. **Davis** has a 1997 criminal felony conviction for possession of a controlled substance.

This case is being prosecuted by Special Assistant U.S. Attorney Michael J. Hunt. It was investigated by the Independence, 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 that targets persons who unlawfully use or possess firearms for federal prosecution. Project Ceasefire has resulted in federal charges against 385 defendants, and convictions against 339 of those defendants, including 316 who pleaded guilty and 23 who were convicted at trial. A total of 288 of the 339 convicted defendants have been sentenced, and 49 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