



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PROJECT CEASEFIRE
TRHEE FELONS SENTENCED
FOR POSSESSING FIREARMS, AMMUNITION

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced today that three Kansas City men 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.

* **Donald L. Dixon**, 38, of Kansas City, Mo., was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Gary A. Fenner this afternoon to three years in federal prison without parole for being a felon in possession of ammunition.

On March 7, 2003, **Dixon** pleaded guilty in federal court to being a felon in possession of shotgun shells on Oct. 29, 2002. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for any felon to be in possession of any firearm or ammunition. **Dixon** has a 1983 criminal felony conviction for robbery.

Dixon was originally indicted by a federal grand jury on Nov. 20, 2002, in Kansas City. The indictment replaced a federal criminal complaint filed against him on Oct. 30, 2002.

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

* **Ward S. Dittmer**, 43, of Kansas City, Mo., was sentenced by U.S. District Chief Judge Dean Whipple this afternoon to two years and nine months in federal prison without parole for being a felon in possession of firearm.

On Feb. 7, 2003, **Dittmer** pleaded guilty in federal court to being a felon in possession of

a Jennings .22 caliber handgun on Jan. 3, 2001. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for any felon to be in possession of any firearm or ammunition. **Dittmer** has a 1998 criminal felony conviction for unlawful use of a weapon.

Dixon was originally indicted by a federal grand jury on Sept. 12, 2002, in Kansas City.

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

* **Dale D. Mitchell, Jr.**, 24, of Kansas City, Mo., was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Howard F. Sachs this morning to seven years and two months in federal prison without parole for being a felon in possession of a firearm.

On Feb. 26, 2003, **Mitchell** pleaded guilty in federal court to being a felon in possession of a Smith and Wesson .40 caliber semi-automatic pistol on Nov. 15, 2002. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for any felon to be in possession of any firearm or ammunition. **Mitchell** has five prior criminal felony convictions. He has three criminal felony convictions for possession of a controlled substance in 1997 and 1998, a criminal felony conviction for car theft in 1998 and a criminal felony conviction for attempted robbery in 2002.

Mitchell was originally indicted by a federal grand jury on Oct. 15, 2002, in Kansas City. The first indictment was replaced with a superseding indictment filed by a federal grand jury on Jan. 28, 2003.

This case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Paul S. Becker. It was investigated by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, the Kansas City, Mo., Police Department and the Grain Valley, 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. Project Ceasefire has resulted in federal charges against 435 defendants, and convictions against 371 of those defendants, including 347 who pleaded guilty and 24 who were convicted at trial. A total of 328 of the 371 convicted defendants have been sentenced, and 43 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