



# NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

**TODD P. GRAVES**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **KC MAN CONVICTED OF CRACK COCAINE, FIREARMS CHARGES**

**KANSAS CITY, Mo.** – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a Kansas City, Mo., man was convicted by a federal jury today of charges related to the distribution of crack cocaine and illegal possession of a firearm.

**Thomas R. Fuller**, 28, of Kansas City, Mo., was found guilty on all five counts of a federal indictment. **Fuller** was convicted of conspiracy to distribute 50 grams or more of crack cocaine, being in possession with intent to distribute 50 grams or more of crack cocaine, being in possession with intent to distribute five grams or more of crack cocaine, and two counts related to illegal possession of a firearm.

**Fuller** carried an FEG .380 caliber semi-automatic handgun at the time he was in possession of five grams or more of crack cocaine. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal to carry a firearm in relation to a drug-trafficking crime. It is also illegal, Graves added, for anyone convicted of a felony to be in possession of any firearm. **Fuller** has a 1997 criminal felony conviction for attempted possession of cocaine in Wyandotte County, Kan.

Following **Fuller's** trial, Graves said, the jury in U.S. District Court in Kansas City deliberated about two and a half hours before returning the guilty verdict to U.S. District Judge Gary A. Fenner, ending a trial that began April 21, 2003.

**Fuller** was initially charged with the crime in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury on May 9, 2002. He was arrested by officers of the Kansas City, Mo., Police Department who were conducting surveillance during a concert at the Uptown Theater, 3600 Broadway, on April 12, 2002. The officers observed **Fuller** make a drug exchange from his Buick Park Avenue in the parking lot, Graves explained. After obtaining a search warrant for the vehicle, officers found the handgun, narcotics and drug paraphernalia in the trunk.

As a result of today's conviction, **Fuller** could be subject to a minimum mandatory sentence of 25 years in federal prison without parole, up to life imprisonment, plus a fine up to \$10.5 million. The sentence will be determined according to the United States Sentencing Guidelines. A sentencing hearing will be scheduled after the completion of a presentence investigation by the U.S. Probation Office.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorneys Catherine A. Connelly and David DeTar Newbert. It was investigated by the Kansas City, Mo. Police Department Drug Enforcement Unit.

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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](http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow)