



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

KC MAN SENTENCED TO 25 YEARS IN PRISON ON 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 sentenced in federal court today after being convicted by a federal jury today of charges related to the distribution of crack cocaine and illegal possession of a firearm.

Thomas R. Fuller, 30, of Kansas City, Mo., was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Gary A. Fenner this afternoon to 25 years in federal prison without parole.

On April 25, 2003, a jury convicted **Fuller** on all five counts of a federal indictment. **Fuller** was found guilty 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.

Fuller 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.

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.

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