



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PROJECT CEASEFIRE
FELON SENTENCED 20 YEARS
FOR ILLEGALLY POSSESSING FIREARM

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that two convicted felons were sentenced in federal court today, in separate and unrelated cases, for illegally possessing firearms.

* **Xavier E. Holmes**, 55, of Kansas City, Mo., was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Fernando J. Gaitan, Jr., this morning to 20 years and 10 months in federal prison without parole.

On Sept. 3, 2003, **Holmes** was found guilty of one count of being a felon in possession of a firearm by a federal jury in the U.S. District Court in Kansas City.

The federal jury found **Holmes** guilty of being in possession of a Webley .455 caliber revolver on May 6, 2003. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for any felon to be in possession of any firearm or ammunition. **Holmes** has 19 prior criminal felony convictions dating back to 1974. **Holmes** has been convicted of burglary, stealing, manslaughter, possession of a controlled substance, receiving stolen property, assault in the first degree, assault in the second degree, conspiracy to obtain controlled substance, possession with intent to distribute a controlled substance and felony driving while intoxicated.

Holmes was initially arrested after law enforcement officers responded to a disturbance call on May 6, 2003, at 3012 McGee in Kansas City. When officers arrived at the residence and were allowed to enter the apartment, they observed **Holmes** standing beside a kitchen counter. At that time, **Holmes** placed his right hand behind his back as if pulling something from the back of his pants. As an officer stepped around the counter, he observed **Holmes** holding a handgun. **Holmes** then dropped the gun, was handcuffed, arrested and officers secured the weapon.

This case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Jess E. Michaelsen. It was

investigated by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms and the Kansas City, Mo., Police Department.

* **Lyle E. McMains**, 24, of Pleasant Hill, Mo., was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Fernando J. Gaitan, Jr., this morning to three years and two months in federal prison without parole.

On Aug. 27, 2003, **McMains** pleaded guilty to being a felon in possession of a firearm. By pleading guilty, he admitted that he was in possession of a Jennings .22 caliber handgun on April 24, 2003. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for any felon to be in possession of any firearm or ammunition. **McMains** has a 1997 criminal felony conviction for burglary and theft and two 2003 criminal felony convictions for possession of a controlled substance and stealing without consent.

McMains was originally charged in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury on June 18, 2003, in Kansas City.

This case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Linda L. Sybrant. It was investigated by the Harrisonville, 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 524 defendants, and convictions against 449 of those defendants, including 422 who pleaded guilty and 27 who were convicted at trial. A total of 394 of the 449 convicted defendants have been sentenced, and 55 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