



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

UPDATE: PROJECT CEASEFIRE
**KANSAS CITY MAN SENTENCED ON
FIREARM VIOLATION**

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a Kansas City man was sentenced today for being a felon in possession of a firearm, in the continuing Project Ceasefire anti-crime initiative.

Claude E. Hyler, 36, of Kansas City, was sentenced this morning by U.S. District Judge Fernando J. Gaitan Jr. to eight years and four months in prison without parole.

On September 20, 2002, **Hyler** pleaded guilty to being a felon in possession of a firearm. By pleading guilty, **Hyler** admitted that he was in possession of two Baretta 9mm semi-automatic pistols on April 24, 2002. Possession of any firearm at that time was illegal, Graves explained, due to **Hyler's** 1998 felony conviction for drug trafficking, 1991 conviction for involuntary manslaughter, 1989 conviction of possession of drugs and 1997 conviction of unlawful use of a weapon.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Linda L. Sybrant. The case was investigated by the Kansas City, 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. As of December 19, 2002, Project Ceasefire has resulted in federal charges against 363 defendants, and convictions against 308 of those defendants, including 286 who pleaded guilty and 22 who were convicted at trial. A total of 262 of the 308 convicted defendants have been sentenced, and 47 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