

NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

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KC MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO CONSPIRING TO DISTRIBUTE METH

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a Kansas City, Mo., man pleaded guilty today to his role in a conspiracy to distribute 500 grams or more of methamphetamine.

Jason S. Loney, 22, of Kansas City, Mo., pleaded guilty before U.S. District Judge Nanette K. Laughrey this afternoon to conspiring to distribute 500 grams or more of meth.

By pleading guilty, Graves said, **Loney** admitted that he engaged in the distribution of meth in the Kansas City area from July 2002 until his arrest on Oct. 9, 2002.

On Nov. 6, 2002, **Loney** was indicted by a federal grand jury for his role in the conspiracy. **Loney's** initial arrest followed a transaction in which he supplied a detective with seven grams of methamphetamine. Loney also admitted to distributing methamphetamine on six other occasions.

As a result of **Loney's** guilty plea, he may be subject to a sentence of at least 10 years in federal prison without parole, plus a fine up to \$4 million. The sentence will be determined according to the United States Sentencing Guidelines. A sentencing hearing will be scheduled sometime after the completion of a presentence investigation by the U.S. Probation Office.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Jeffrey Valenti. It was investigated by the Kansas City, Mo., Police Department and the Jackson County Drug Task Force.

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