



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

UPDATE: PROJECT CEASEFIRE
GRAND JURY INDICTS FIRST DEFENDANT FOR
ILLEGAL POSSESSION OF BODY ARMOR

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a Kansas City man was indicted by a federal grand jury today for illegal possession of body armor and a firearm. The indictment marks the first case in which a defendant will be prosecuted for illegal possession of body armor in the Western District of Missouri.

Turane Maddox, 24, of Kansas City, Mo., was indicted by a federal grand jury in Kansas City for being a felon in possession of a firearm and a bullet-proof vest.

The two-count federal indictment alleges that **Maddox** was in possession of a Glock .40 caliber semi-automatic pistol and a Safariland ballistic vest on June 19, 2003. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for anyone who has been convicted of a felony to be in possession of any firearm, ammunition or body armor. **Maddox** has a 1998 criminal felony conviction for theft and a 1999 criminal felony conviction for robbery.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney David A. Barnes. It was investigated by the Kansas City, Mo., Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

Graves cautioned that the charges contained in the indictment are simply accusations, and not evidence of guilt. Evidence supporting the charges must be presented to a federal trial jury, whose duty is to determine guilt or innocence.

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 for federal

prosecution persons who unlawfully use or possess firearms.

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