



# NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

**TODD P. GRAVES**

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**AUGUST 27, 2003**  
**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

UPDATE: PROJECT CEASEFIRE  
**U.S. ATTORNEY'S OFFICE CONVICTS**  
**400<sup>TH</sup> FELON IN POSSESSION OF A FIREARM**

**KANSAS CITY, Mo.** – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced the 400<sup>th</sup> conviction under Project Ceasefire today as three men pleaded guilty, in separate and unrelated cases, to being felons illegally in possession of a firearm, ammunition and body armor.

The guilty pleas mark additional progress under Project Ceasefire, the district's ongoing anti-crime initiative.

“As we pass the 400<sup>th</sup> conviction under Project Ceasefire, our office remains highly motivated to prosecute felons in possession of firearms,” Graves said. “This milestone clearly proves that Project Ceasefire is having an impact on our community, as we continue to receive reports that crime is on a decline in the metropolitan area.”

\* **Turane Maddox**, 24, of Kansas City, Mo., pleaded guilty before U.S. District Judge Nanette K. Laughrey this morning to being a felon in possession of a firearm and body armor.

By pleading guilty, **Maddox** admitted that he 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.

**Maddox** was originally charged with being a felon in possession of a firearm and body armor in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury on July 10, 2003, in Kansas City.

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.

\* **Lyle E. McMains**, 24, of Pleasant Hill, Mo., pleaded guilty before U.S. District Judge Fernando J. Gaitan, Jr., this morning to being a felon in possession of a firearm.

By pleading guilty, **McMains** 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 anyone who has been convicted of a felony to be in possession of any firearm or ammunition. **McMains** has a 1997 criminal felony conviction for burglary and theft.

**McMains** was originally charged with being a felon in possession of a firearm in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury on June 18, 2003, in Kansas City.

This case is being 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.

\* **Christopher A. Punzo**, 34, of St. Joseph, Mo., pleaded guilty before U.S. District Judge Nanette K. Laughrey this afternoon to being a felon in possession of ammunition.

By pleading guilty, **Punzo** admitted that he was in possession of five live rounds of Remington .38 Short Colt caliber ammunition on April 8, 2002. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for anyone who has been convicted of a felony to be in possession of any firearm or ammunition. **Punzo** has a 1996 criminal felony conviction for stealing and a 1997 criminal felony conviction for auto theft.

**Punzo** was originally charged with being a felon in possession of ammunition in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury on June 18, 2003, in Kansas City.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Linda L. Sybrant. It was investigated by the Missouri Highway Patrol 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 for federal prosecution persons who unlawfully use or possess firearms. Project Ceasefire has resulted in federal charges against 479 defendants, and convictions against 401 of those defendants, including 376 who pleaded guilty and 25 who were convicted at trial. A total of 348 of the 401 convicted defendants have been sentenced, and 53 currently await sentencing hearings.

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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  
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