



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PROJECT CEASEFIRE

KC FELON SENTENCED FOR ILLEGAL POSSESSION OF FIREARM

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a Kansas City, Mo., man was sentenced in federal court today for being a felon in possession of a firearm. The case marks additional progress under Project Ceasefire, the district's ongoing anti-crime initiative.

Nicholas N. Maize, 24, of Kansas City, Mo., was sentenced by U.S. District Chief Judge Dean Whipple this morning to four years and three months in federal prison without parole, which will be served consecutive to a state sentence he currently is serving.

On June 6, 2003, **Maize** pleaded guilty to being a felon in possession of a firearm. By pleading guilty, **Maize** admitted that he was in possession of a Charter Arms .357 caliber revolver on Sept. 20, 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. **Maize** has three 1996 criminal felony convictions for possession of a controlled substance on two occasions and sale of cocaine in Jackson County, Mo. He also has a criminal felony conviction for possession of a controlled substance from 1997.

Maize was originally charged in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury on Nov. 19, 2002, in Kansas City.

This case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Linda L. Sybrant. It was investigated by the Kansas City, 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.

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

