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OCTOBER 8, 2003 FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

GRAND JURY INDICTS TWO KC MEN FOR CONSPIRING TO DISTRIBUTE CRACK COCAINE

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that two Kansas City, Mo., men were indicted by a federal grand jury today for conspiring to distribute crack cocaine.

Andre T. Ponds, 37, also known as Dre, and Craig Steven Moore, 31, both of Kansas City, were charged in a seven-count indictment returned by a federal grand jury in Kansas City.

Count One of the federal indictment alleges that **Ponds** and **Moore** conspired to distribute 50 grams or more of crack cocaine between August 2001 and Aug. 21, 2002.

Counts Two, Three and Four of the federal indictment allege that **Ponds** distributed crack cocaine on Aug. 8, Aug. 13, and Aug. 15, 2002, respectively, in Kansas City.

Count Five of the federal indictment alleges that **Moore** possessed with intent to distribute crack cocaine on Aug. 22, 2002, in Kansas City.

Count Six of the federal indictment alleges that **Ponds** distributed cocaine on June 14, 2002, in Kansas City.

Count Seven of the federal indictment is a forfeiture count, which would require **Moore** to forfeit any proceeds derived as a result of the conspiracy to distribute crack cocaine. The forfeiture would include approximately \$1,150 seized on Aug. 22, 2002, from the residence located at 1705 E. 50th Terrace, in Kansas City.

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. The case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney David M. Ketchmark. It was investigated by the Jackson County, Mo., 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