



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

KC MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO DISTRIBUTION OF CRACK COCAINE

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a Kansas City man pleaded guilty in federal court today to distributing crack cocaine after law enforcement officers found crack and more than 650 grams of marijuana at his residence.

Barry D. Purnell, 22, of Kansas City, Mo., also known as “Bear”, pleaded guilty before U.S. District Judge Ortrie D. Smith this morning to distributing crack cocaine in Jackson County, Mo.

By pleading guilty, **Purnell** admitted that he knowingly and intentionally distributed 27.6 grams of crack cocaine on Aug. 18, 2003, in Kansas City. He also admitted that he distributed crack cocaine again on Aug. 20, and 22, 2003.

On Aug. 26, 2003, law enforcement officers recovered 78.45 grams of crack cocaine and 657.07 grams of marijuana from the **Purnell’s** residence in Kansas City. Also recovered from the residence were several firearms, Graves said.

Under federal law, Graves said, **Purnell** may be subject to a maximum sentence of up to 40 years in federal prison without parole, plus a fine of up to \$2 million. **Purnell’s** sentence will be determined according to the United States Sentencing Guidelines. A sentencing hearing will be scheduled after the completion of a presentence investigation by the United States Probation Office.

This case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney W. Brent Powell. It was investigated by the Kansas City, Mo., Police Department and the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration.

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