



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

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JUNE 6, 2003

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

UPDATE: PROJECT CEASEFIRE **THREE KC FELONS PLEAD GUILTY TO FIREARMS CHARGES**

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that three Kansas City, Mo., men pleaded guilty, in separate and unrelated cases, in federal court today for violating a federal firearms law. These cases mark additional progress under Project Ceasefire, the district's ongoing anti-crime initiative.

Willie R. Robinson, 21, of Kansas City, Mo., pleaded guilty before U.S. District Judge Howard F. Sachs this morning to being a felon in possession of a firearm.

Robinson pleaded guilty to an indictment returned by a federal grand jury on Nov. 20, 2002, in Kansas City. By pleading guilty, **Robinson** admitted that he was in possession of a Lorcin 9 mm pistol on Oct. 21, 2002. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for anyone convicted of a felony to be in possession of any firearm or ammunition. **Robinson** has one 2001 criminal felony conviction for possession with intent to deliver and two 2001 criminal felony convictions for the sale of a controlled substance.

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

Christopher D. Wilson, 25, of Kansas City, Mo., pleaded guilty before U.S. District Chief Judge Dean Whipple this morning to being a felon in possession of a firearm.

Wilson pleaded guilty to an indictment returned by a federal grand jury on Jan. 28, 2003, in Kansas City. By pleading guilty, **Wilson** admitted that he was in possession of a Smith and Wesson .40 caliber pistol on Dec. 26, 2002. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for anyone convicted of a felony to be in possession of any firearm or ammunition. **Wilson** has two 1997 criminal felony convictions for aggravated assault.

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

Nicholas N. Maize, 25, of Kansas City, Mo., pleaded guilty before U.S. District Chief Judge Dean Whipple this morning to being a felon in possession of a firearm.

Maize pleaded guilty to an indictment returned by a federal grand jury on Nov. 19, 2002, in Kansas City. 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 convicted of a felony to be in possession of any firearm or ammunition. **Maize** has a total of four criminal felony convictions for possession of a controlled substance in 1996, sale of cocaine in 1996, possession of a controlled substance in 1996, and possession of a controlled substance in 1997.

This case is being 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 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