



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

UPDATE: PROJECT CEASEFIRE
GRAND JURY INDICTS FIVE MEN
FOR ILLEGAL POSSESSION OF FIREARMS

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that five Kansas City area men were indicted by a federal grand jury today, in separate and unrelated cases, for violating a federal firearms law. Today's indictments mark additional progress under Project Ceasefire, the district's ongoing anti-crime initiative.

* **Louis F. Saenz**, 24, of Kansas City, Mo., was indicted by a federal grand jury in Kansas City for being a felon in possession of a firearm.

The federal indictment alleges that **Saenz** was in possession of a Mossberg 12 gauge pistol-grip shotgun on July 9, 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. **Saenz** has three 1997 criminal felony convictions for assault, auto theft and leaving the scene of an accident and a 2000 criminal felony conviction for unlawful use of a weapon.

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

* **Ronald Lagrone**, 31, of Kansas City, Mo., was indicted by a federal grand jury in Kansas City for being a felon in possession of firearms.

The federal indictment alleges that **Lagrone** was in possession of a Clerke .32 caliber revolver and a Lorcin .25 caliber semi-automatic pistol on Sept. 4, 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. **Lagrone** has a 1990 criminal felony conviction for robbery.

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

* **David E. Nagles**, 49, of Kansas City, Mo., was indicted by a federal grand jury in Kansas City for being a felon in possession of a firearm.

The federal indictment alleges that **Nagles** was in possession of three shotguns, two rifles and a revolver on July 11, 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. **Nagles** has a 1981 criminal felony conviction for stealing, three 1972 criminal felony convictions for stealing, first degree burglary and second degree burglary, and a 1971 criminal felony conviction for car theft.

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

* **Joey C. Neff**, 48, of Raymore, Mo., was indicted by a federal grand jury in Kansas City for being a felon in possession of firearms.

The federal indictment alleges that **Neff** was in possession of a shotgun, three rifles and a revolver on July 5, 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. **Neff** has three 1992 criminal felony convictions for stealing, a 1992 criminal felony conviction for first degree burglary, two 1992 criminal felony convictions for second degree burglary, and two 1986 criminal felony convictions for burglary and stealing.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Bruce E. Clark. It was investigated by the Lake Winnebago, Mo., Police Department, the Cass County, Mo., Sheriff's Department, the Missouri State Highway Patrol, and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

* **Leonard D. Burnett**, 22, of Kansas City, Mo., was indicted by a federal grand jury in Kansas City for being a felon in possession of a firearm.

The federal indictment alleges that **Burnett** was in possession of a Jennings J-22 .22 caliber handgun on June 7, 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. **Burnett** has a 1998 criminal felony conviction for second degree trafficking.

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.

Graves cautioned that the charges contained in the indictments 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.

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.

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