



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PROJECT CEASEFIRE
PROJECT CEASEFIRE CHARGES
400TH CRIMINAL WITH FIREARM VIOLATION

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that 11 defendants were indicted by a federal grand jury today on separate and unrelated charges for being felons in possession of firearms. Today's indictments are being prosecuted under project Ceasefire, the district's ongoing anti-crime initiative, which now has brought charges against a total of 400 defendants.

"Our office has been working diligently with our law enforcement partners to make our community a safer place by getting guns out of the hands of criminals," Graves said. "Targeting felons in possession of firearms through project Ceasefire is a proven way to accomplish our goal. Four hundred criminals have been indicted for illegally possessing a weapon, which means 400 fewer criminals will be free to commit another offense."

* **Robert R. White**, 55, of St. Joseph, Mo., was charged with two counts of being a felon in possession of a firearm in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury, which met today in Kansas City.

Count One of the federal indictment alleges that on Nov. 6, 2001, **White** was in possession of a Davis Industries .38 caliber pistol. Count Two of the federal indictment alleges that on Jan. 3, 2002, **White** was in possession of Rhom .38 Special handgun, a Luger 9 mm pistol, a Husquarna Vapenfabrisk pistol, a Ruger .22 caliber rifle, a 410 caliber bolt shotgun, a Remington Speedmaster .22 caliber rifle, a Remington 870 Wingmaster shotgun and a Remington 20 gauge shotgun. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for any felon to be in possession of any firearm or ammunition. **White** has a 1982 criminal felony conviction for unlawful use of a weapon.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Paul S. Becker. It is being

investigated by the NITRO Task Force. NITRO is the Northwest Missouri Team Response Operation, a joint law enforcement effort by the United States Attorney's Office and federal, state and local law enforcement agencies in the 16-county region.

* **Rodney Lee Webber**, 37, of Cameron, Mo., was charged with one count of being a felon in possession of a firearm in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury, which met today in Kansas City.

The federal indictment alleges that on March 4, 2003, **Webber** was in possession of 19 weapons, including: a Bryco Arms 9 mm pistol; a Connecticut Valley Arms and Armi San Marco .410 gauge single-shot shotgun; two Winchester .30-30 lever-action rifles; two Winchester 12 gauge shotguns; a Mossberg .22 caliber rifle; two Marlin .22 caliber rifles; a Savage .22 caliber rifle; a Rossi .22 caliber rifle; a New England Arms 12 gauge shotgun; a Savage 12 gauge shotgun; a Mossberg .410 gauge shotgun; a Sauer and Sohn .22 caliber revolver; a Winchester 70-bolt action; .270 caliber rifle; a Lithgow .303 caliber rifle; a Springfield Armory .45 caliber pistol; and a .22 caliber revolver. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for any felon to be in possession of any firearm or ammunition. **Webber** has two 1985 criminal felony convictions for stealing and burglary.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Jess E. Michaelsen. It was investigated by the NITRO Task Force. NITRO is the Northwest Missouri Team Response Operation, a joint law enforcement effort by the United States Attorney's Office and federal, state and local law enforcement agencies in the 16-county region.

* **Rahman A. Sallee**, 27, of Kansas City, Mo., was charged with one count of being a felon in possession of a firearm in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury, which met today in Kansas City.

The federal indictment alleges that on Oct. 26, 2002, **Sallee** was in possession of a Taurus 9 mm semi-automatic handgun. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for any felon to be in possession of any firearm or ammunition. **Sallee** has criminal felony convictions for unlawful use of a weapon in 1995 and 1996.

This case is being prosecuted by First Assistant U.S. Attorney Roseann A. Ketchmark. It is being investigated by the Kansas City, Mo., Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms.

* **Aaron J. Waddell**, 31, of Kansas City, Mo., was charged with one count of being a felon in possession of a firearm in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury, which met today in Kansas City.

The federal indictment alleges that on Jan. 5, 2003, **Waddell** was in possession of a Regulator Deluxe .45 caliber revolver. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for any felon to be in possession of any firearm or ammunition. **Waddell** has two 1997 criminal felony convictions for manufacture of a controlled substance and possession of a controlled substance.

This case is being prosecuted by First Assistant U.S. Attorney Roseann A. Ketchmark. It is being investigated by the Kansas City, Mo., Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms.

* **Jerry L. Petty**, 55, of Kansas City, Mo., was charged with one count of being a felon in possession of a firearm in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury, which met today in Kansas City.

The federal indictment alleges that on Aug. 19, 2002, **Petty** was in possession of a Smith and Wesson .38 caliber revolver and a Rossi .38 caliber revolver. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for any felon to be in possession of any firearm or ammunition. **Petty** has two 1987 criminal felony convictions unlawful use of a weapon and possession.

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

* **William K. Little**, 43, of Kansas City, Mo., was charged with one count of being a felon in possession of a firearm in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury, which met today in Kansas City.

The federal indictment alleges that on Dec. 3, 2002, **Little** was in possession of a RG .38 caliber revolver. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for any felon to be in possession of any firearm or ammunition. **Little** has three 1995 criminal felony convictions for unlawful use of a weapon, burglary and stealing and a 1992 criminal felony conviction for auto theft.

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

* **Sherrill D. Collins**, 34, of Kansas City, Mo., was charged with one count of being a felon in possession of a firearm in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury, which met today in Kansas City.

The federal indictment alleges that on Feb. 5, 2003, **Collins** was in possession of a Bryco 9 mm handgun. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for any felon to be in possession of any firearm or ammunition. **Collins** has a 1986 criminal felony conviction for robbery and a 1997 criminal felony conviction for assault.

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

* **Jeffrey L. Medina**, 35, of Kansas City, Mo., was charged with one count of being a

felon in possession of a firearm in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury, which met today in Kansas City.

The federal indictment alleges that on Oct. 6, 2002, **Medina** was in possession of a Armi Tanfoglio .32 caliber pistol. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for any felon to be in possession of any firearm or ammunition. **Medina** has a 1986 criminal felony conviction for burglary.

This case is being prosecuted by First Assistant U.S. Attorney Roseann A. Ketchmark. It is being investigated by the Kansas City, Mo., Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms.

* **Eric A. Cook**, 38, of Kansas City, Mo., was charged with one count of being a felon in possession of a firearm in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury, which met today in Kansas City.

The federal indictment alleges that on Feb. 12, 2003, **Cook** was in possession of a Bryco Arms 9 mm pistol. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for any felon to be in possession of any firearm or ammunition. **Cook** has a 1986 criminal felony conviction for attempted stealing and a 1995 criminal felony conviction for carrying a concealed weapon.

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

* **Delmar L. Hatcher, Jr.**, 32, of Kansas City, Mo., was charged with one count of being a felon in possession of a firearm in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury, which met today in Kansas City.

The federal indictment alleges that on Jan. 31, 2003, **Hatcher** was in possession of a North American Arms .22 caliber revolver. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for any felon to be in possession of any firearm or ammunition. **Hatcher** has a 1985 criminal felony conviction for unlawful use of a weapon and a 1991 criminal felony conviction for possession of cocaine base.

This case is being prosecuted by Special Assistant U.S. Attorney Dan C. Miller. It is being investigated by the Kansas City, Mo., Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms.

* **Jewell D. Saunders**, 23, of Kansas City, Mo., was charged with one count of being a felon in possession of a firearm in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury, which met today in Kansas City.

The federal indictment alleges that on Feb. 26, 2003, **Saunders** was in possession of a Beretta .22 caliber pistol. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for any felon to be in

possession of any firearm or ammunition. **Saunders** has two 1997 criminal felony convictions for second degree robbery and armed criminal action.

This case is being prosecuted by Special Assistant U.S. Attorney Dan C. Miller. It is being investigated by the Kansas City, Mo., Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms.

Graves cautioned that the charges contained in these 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 persons who unlawfully use or possess firearms for federal prosecution. Project Ceasefire has resulted in federal charges against 400 defendants, and convictions against 339 of those defendants, including 316 who pleaded guilty and 23 who were convicted at trial. A total of 288 of the 339 convicted defendants have been sentenced, and 49 currently await sentencing hearings.

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