



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

UPDATE: PROJECT CEASEFIRE
KC MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO FIREARM CHARGE

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a Kansas City, Mo., felon pleaded guilty in federal court today to violating a federal firearms law. The case marks additional progress under Project Ceasefire, the district's ongoing anti-crime initiative.

James E. Waters, 23, of Kansas City, Mo., pleaded guilty before U.S. District Judge Scott O. Wright this morning to being a felon in possession of a firearm.

By pleading guilty, **Waters** admitted that he was in possession of a Walther PPK .380 semi-automatic pistol on May 25, 2003. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for anyone convicted of a felony to be in possession of any firearm or ammunition. **Waters** has a 2000 criminal felony conviction on two counts of robbery.

Waters was originally charged with being a felon in possession of a firearm in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury on Aug. 19, 2003, in Kansas City.

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.

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.

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