



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PROJECT CEASEFIRE **KC MAN SENTENCED FOR ILLEGAL POSSESSION OF FIREARM**

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a Kansas City, Mo., man was sentenced in federal court today for being a felon in possession of a firearm. The case marks additional progress under Project Ceasefire, the district's ongoing anti-crime initiative.

Sylvester Wells, 48, of Kansas City, Mo., was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Fernando J. Gaitan, Jr., this morning to six years and three months in federal prison without parole.

On June 17, 2003, **Wells** pleaded guilty to being a felon in possession of a firearm. By pleading guilty, **Wells** admitted that he was in possession of an R.G. Industries .22 caliber revolver on Jan. 28, 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. **Wells** has a 2000 criminal felony conviction for distribution of a controlled substance and a 1979 criminal felony conviction for armed robbery.

Wells was originally charged in a criminal complaint filed in federal court on Jan. 29, 2003, in Kansas City. The criminal complaint was later replaced by an indictment returned by a federal grand jury on Feb. 3, 2003, in Kansas City.

This case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Bruce E. Clark. 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. Project Ceasefire has resulted in

federal charges against 479 defendants, and convictions against 404 of those defendants, including 378 who pleaded guilty and 26 who were convicted at trial. A total of 353 of the 404 convicted defendants have been sentenced, and 51 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

