

NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

TODD P. GRAVES

JULY 23, 2003 FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PROJECT CEASEFIRE

KC FELON 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 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.

Aaron J. Waddell, 32, of Kansas City, Mo., was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Fernando J. Gaitan, Jr., this morning to three years and one month in federal prison without parole.

On April 21, 2003, **Waddell** pleaded guilty to being a felon in possession of a firearm. By pleading guilty, he admitted that he was in possession of a Regulator Deluxe .45 caliber revolver on Jan. 5, 2003. 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.

Waddell was initially charged with being a felon in possession of a firearm in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury on March 5, 2003, in Kansas City.

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.

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