



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

UPDATE: PROJECT CEASEFIRE **KC, BLUE SPRINGS FELONS** **SENTENCED FOR ILLEGAL FIREARMS**

KANSAS CITY, Mo. - Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that two felons were sentenced and one pleaded guilty in federal court today, in separate and unrelated cases, for illegally possessing firearms.

* **Robin M. Morgan**, 40, of Kansas City, Mo., was sentenced by U.S. Chief District Judge Dean Whipple this morning to two years and six months in federal prison without parole.

On Sept. 9, 2004, **Morgan** pleaded guilty to being a felon in possession of a firearm. By pleading guilty, **Morgan** admitted he was in possession of a Colt .38-caliber special handgun on Jan. 24, 2004. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for any felon to be in possession of a firearm or ammunition. **Morgan** has three 1997 criminal felony convictions for possession of a controlled substance and a 1997 criminal felony conviction for sale of crack cocaine.

This case was prosecuted by Special Assistant U.S. Attorney Stefan C. Hughes. It was investigated by the Kansas City, Mo., Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

* **Shane M. Burkhart**, 24, of Blue Springs, Mo., was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Ortrie D. Smith this morning to two years and three months in federal prison without parole.

On Sept. 15, 2004, **Burkhart** pleaded guilty to being a felon in possession of a firearm. By pleading guilty, **Burkhart** admitted he was in possession of a Hi-Standard .22-caliber semi-automatic pistol on June 14, 2004. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for any felon to be in possession of a firearm or ammunition. **Burkhart** has two 2003 criminal felony convictions for forgery and leaving the scene of an accident.

This case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney David A. Barnes. It was investigated by the Independence, Mo., Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

* **Rickey E. Renfro**, 22, of Kansas City, Mo., pleaded guilty before U.S. District Judge Howard F. Sachs this morning to being a felon in possession of a firearm.

By pleading guilty, **Renfro** admitted that he was in possession of a Colt .357-caliber revolver on Sept. 4, 2004. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for any felon to be in possession of a firearm or ammunition. **Renfro** has a 2003 criminal felony conviction for burglary and a 2002 criminal felony conviction for theft.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Christina Y. Tabor. 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 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