



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PROJECT CEASEFIRE
9 KC, INDEPENDENCE, HARRISONVILLE, RAYMORE RESIDENTS
INDICTED FOR ILLEGAL FIREARMS

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that nine individuals were indicted by a federal grand jury today, in separate and unrelated cases, for illegally possessing firearms. Today's indictments, Graves said, are part of Project Ceasefire, the district's ongoing anti-crime initiative.

* **Theotis Young**, 25, of Kansas City, Mo., was charged in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury in Kansas City with being a felon in possession of a firearm.

The federal indictment alleges that **Young** was in possession of a Raven Arms .25-caliber semi-automatic handgun on Oct. 17, 2004. 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. **Young** has a 1997 criminal felony conviction for tampering.

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.

* **Craig O. Scott**, 38, of Kansas City, Mo., was charged in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury in Kansas City with being a felon in possession of a firearm.

The federal indictment alleges that **Scott** was in possession of a Bryco .380-caliber semi-automatic pistol on Jan. 20, 2005. 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. **Scott** has a 2003 criminal felony conviction for conspiracy to defraud the United States District Court of the Eastern District of Missouri.

This case is being 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.

* **Micah A. Johnson**, 29, of Kansas City, Mo., was charged in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury in Kansas City with being a felon in possession of a firearm.

The federal indictment alleges that **Johnson** was in possession of a Rossi .38-caliber revolver on Dec. 6, 2004. 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. **Johnson** has a 2003 criminal felony conviction for grand theft auto.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Bruce E. Clark. It was investigated by the Kansas City, Mo., Police Department, the Clay County, Mo., Sheriff's Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

* **Nathaniel C. Gadson, III**, 29, of Kansas City, Mo., was charged in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury in Kansas City with being a felon in possession of two firearms.

The federal indictment alleges that **Gadson** was in possession of a Taurus 9 mm semi-automatic pistol and a Smith and Wesson .40-caliber semi-automatic pistol on Jan. 3, 2005. 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. **Gadson** has a 1999 criminal felony conviction for possession of a controlled substance, a 1996 criminal felony conviction for possession of a controlled substance, 1994 criminal felony convictions for burglary, theft and attempted aggravated battery and a 1993 criminal felony conviction for tampering.

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.

* **Walter E. Richardson**, 55, of Harrisonville, Mo., was charged in a two-count superseding indictment returned by a federal grand jury in Kansas City with being a felon in possession of a firearm.

Count One of the federal indictment alleges that **Richardson** was in possession of a Glock .40-caliber semi-automatic pistol, a Smith and Wesson 12-gauge shotgun and a Romarm/Cugir rifle on Nov. 15, 2004. 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. **Richardson** has a 1996 criminal felony conviction for driving while intoxicated and two 1995 criminal felony convictions for unlawful use of a weapon and driving while intoxicated.

Count Two of the federal indictment alleges that **Richardson** made a false and fictitious written statement when he acquired the Romarm/Cugir rifle from Dean's Gun Shop on March 25, 2000. At that time, **Richardson** represented that he had not been convicted of a felony.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Jess E. Michaelsen. It was investigated by the Lee's Summit, Mo., Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

* **Matthew A. Williams**, 26, of Raymore, Mo., was charged in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury in Kansas City with being a felon in possession of a firearm.

The federal indictment alleges that **Williams** was in possession of a Colt .380-caliber pistol on Oct. 15, 2004. 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. **Williams** has a 2002 criminal felony conviction for possession of a controlled substance and a 2001 criminal felony conviction for unlawful use of a weapon.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Jess E. Michaelsen. It was investigated by the Raymore, Mo., Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

* **Terrance M. Curry**, 30, of Kansas City, Mo., was charged in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury in Kansas City with being a felon in possession of a firearm.

The federal indictment alleges that **Curry** was in possession of a Ruger 9 mm semi-automatic pistol on Jan. 7, 2005. 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. **Curry** has eight 1993 criminal felony convictions for robbery and armed criminal action.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney David A. Barnes. It was investigated by the Kansas City, Mo., Police Department, the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

* **David R. Salinas**, 32, of Kansas City, Mo., was charged in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury in Kansas City with being an unlawful user of a controlled substance in possession of a firearm.

The federal indictment alleges that **Salinas** was in possession of an Intratec Arms 9 mm pistol on Jan. 10, 2005. Under federal statutes, Graves explained, it is illegal for any unlawful user or addict of a controlled substance to be in possession of a firearm. The indictment alleges that **Salinas** was an unlawful user of methamphetamine at the time he possessed the Intratec Arms pistol.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Paul S. Becker. It was investigated by the Independence, Mo., Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

* **Kenneth Dale Vaughn**, 49, of Independence, Mo., was charged in an indictment

returned by a federal grand jury in Kansas City with being an unlawful user of a controlled substance in possession of a firearm.

The federal indictment alleges that **Vaughn** was in possession of a sawed-off shotgun on Sept. 9, 2004. Under federal statutes, Graves explained, it is illegal for any unlawful user or addict of a controlled substance to be in possession of a firearm. The indictment alleges that **Vaughn** was an unlawful user of methamphetamine at the time he possessed the shotgun.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Paul S. Becker. It was investigated by the Independence, Mo., Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

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 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