



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

UPDATE: PROJECT CEASEFIRE
TWO KC FELONS SENTENCED FOR ILLEGAL FIREARMS

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that two Kansas City area men were sentenced in federal court today, in separate and unrelated cases, for illegally possessing firearms. Today's sentencings, Graves said, are part of Project Ceasefire, the district's ongoing anti-crime initiative.

* **Jarrold W. Hill**, 39, of Kansas City, Mo., was sentenced by U.S. Chief District Judge Dean Whipple this morning to six years and five months in federal prison without parole.

On Oct. 7, 2004, **Hill** pleaded guilty to being a felon in possession of a firearm. By pleading guilty, **Hill** admitted that he was in possession of a Colt .22-caliber pistol on Aug. 2, 2003. Under federal statutes, Graves explained, it is illegal for any felon to be in possession of any firearm or ammunition. **Hill** has a 1998 criminal felony conviction for possession of a controlled substance, a 1997 criminal felony conviction for being a felon in possession of a firearm, a 1991 conviction for burglary and two 1985 criminal felony convictions for burglary and theft.

Hill was originally charged in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury on June 1, 2004, in Kansas City.

This case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Rudolph R. Rhodes, IV. It was investigated by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

* **James E. Brager**, 51, of Kansas City, Mo., was sentenced by U.S. Chief District Judge Dean Whipple this morning to six years and five months in federal prison without parole.

On Nov. 23, 2004, **Brager** pleaded guilty to being a felon in possession of a firearm. By pleading guilty, **Brager** admitted that he was in possession of a Sterling .22-caliber semi-

automatic pistol on Feb. 23, 2004. Under federal statutes, Graves explained, it is illegal for any felon to be in possession of any firearm or ammunition. **Brager** has two 1999 criminal felony convictions for sale of a controlled substance and possession of a controlled substance and a 1993 criminal felony conviction for robbery.

Brager was originally charged in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury on June 2, 2004, in Kansas City.

This case was 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 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