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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
March 9, 2005**

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**Project Safe Neighborhoods :**

**WATERBURY MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO ILLEGAL GUN  
POSSESSION**

Kevin J. O'Connor, United States Attorney for the District of Connecticut, today announced that KENNY FIGUEROA, age 20, of 1407 South Main Street, Waterbury, has pleaded guilty to possession of a firearm by a convicted felon. United States District Judge Christopher F. Droney accepted FIGUEROA's plea of guilty yesterday, March 8, in Hartford.

In November 2004, a federal grand jury indicted FIGUEROA for violating the federal law that makes it illegal for a person who has previously been convicted of a felony offense to possess a firearm. According to the prosecutor, in mid-March 2004, a friend of FIGUEROA's had given a gun to him to hold, which FIGUEROA hid in the bedroom of the State Street apartment where he was staying at the time. On March 27, 2004, the friend retrieved the gun from FIGUEROA and allegedly used it in a shooting incident in the vicinity of 292 West Main Street in Waterbury. After the shooting, in the early morning hours of March 28, 2004, the friend returned the gun to FIGUEROA at the State Street apartment. On March 28, 2004, Waterbury police, who were investigating the shooting, found the gun in FIGUEROA's bedroom.

According to the Indictment, prior to March 28, 2004, FIGUEROA had been convicted of felony offenses, including attempted larceny in the second degree and conspiracy to commit larceny in the second degree.

FIGUEROA faces a maximum term of imprisonment of 10 years and a fine of up to \$250,000 when he is sentenced by Judge Droney on May 27, 2005.

“The United States Attorney’s Office, through the Project Safe Neighborhoods initiative, remains steadfast in its commitment to vigorously enforcing the gun laws and removing dangerous felons from the community,” U.S. Attorney O’Connor stated.

This case was investigated by the Waterbury Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, and is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney John Marrella.

The Project Safe Neighborhoods Initiative is aimed at reducing gun violence, deterring illegal possession of guns, and improving the safety of residents in Connecticut’s cities. Participants in the initiative include community members and organizations as well as federal, state and local law enforcement agencies. More information on the nationwide Project Safe Neighborhoods Initiative can be found at [www.psn.gov](http://www.psn.gov) <<http://www.psn.gov>>.

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