



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**U.S. ATTORNEY, HUD, KCPD ANNOUNCE
FEDERAL INDICTMENTS, LOCAL WARRANT SWEEP
AS PART OF PUBLIC HOUSING SAFETY INITIATIVE**

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, was joined by partners of the Public Housing Safety Initiative in making two separate announcements today regarding progress of the initiative on both the federal and local front.

The Public Housing Safety Initiative is a new effort by the U.S. Departments of Justice and Housing and Urban Development along with the Kansas City, Mo., and Independence, Mo., Police Departments.

Today's announcements included a briefing regarding a warrant sweep that was conducted this afternoon at the Stonegate Meadows Apartment Complex in Kansas City. Additionally, Graves announced that a grand jury has indicted seven individuals in four separate cases that stem from Public Housing Safety Initiative investigations.

“The Kansas City Police Department has just conducted a warrant sweep of the Stonegate Meadows Apartment Complex and, in a separate action, four indictments that our office will prosecute have been returned by a federal grand jury in Kansas City,” Graves said. “Both events are a direct result of the Public Housing Safety Initiative and could not have been accomplished had it not been for the cooperative effort of our local police department and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.”

“The residents of these public housing communities deserve to live in a safe and drug-free environment,” Graves said. “Therefore, the Department of Justice has made creating safe, federally-assisted housing areas a priority in an attempt to improve the quality of life in these communities.”

“Today’s sweep of this apartment complex, combined with separate charges returned by a federal grand jury on Tuesday, illustrate our agencies’ collective commitment to preventing and prosecuting violent crimes and drug offenses in public housing areas,” Graves added.

The Public Housing Safety Initiative provided \$400,000 in federal funding to train police officers and crime analysts, improve surveillance in public housing areas, increase the number of sweeps conducted in these areas, target criminals residing in public housing areas, increase drug enforcement, improve investigations and coordinate with probation and parole efforts. The federal initiative also funded the hiring of a Special Assistant U.S. Attorney to prosecute crimes occurring within federally-assisted housing areas. The Kansas City metropolitan area is one of 10 communities nationwide selected for the new initiative, which will focus on reducing crime in targeted public housing areas, improving tenant conditions and improving interagency collaboration and communication on quality-of-life issues in public housing areas.

“The Public Housing Safety Initiative allows each agency to implement its own strategy to accomplish our shared objective,” Graves said. “On the local level, the initiative supports our police departments’ efforts to enforce the law in these communities. The Public Housing Safety Initiative also better equips our office by enabling us to dedicate a line attorney strictly to prosecuting criminal actions that arise from public housing areas. The initiative dovetails all our agencies’ efforts, resulting in a safer environment for those who reside in these communities.”

In addition to today’s sweep of the Stonegate Meadows Apartment Complex, Graves also announced that seven Kansas City men were indicted by a federal grand jury on Tuesday in four separate cases stemming from the Public Housing Safety Initiative.

* **Todge A. Anderson**, 20, **Lonnie D. Gray**, 21, **Marcus J. Hill**, 19, and **Prince E. Gilbert**, 19, all of Kansas City, were charged in a four-count indictment returned by a federal grand jury in Kansas City.

Count One of the federal indictment alleges that **Anderson** and **Gray** robbed the Family Laundry on Oct. 5, 2005, in Kansas City.

Count Two of the federal indictment alleges that **Anderson** and **Gray** illegally possessed a firearm during the Family Laundry robbery on Oct. 5, 2005. The indictment alleges that the co-defendants were in possession of a Winchester .22-caliber rifle.

Count Three of the federal indictment alleges that **Anderson**, **Hill** and **Gilbert** robbed the Advanced Cellular and Pager Center on Oct. 10, 2005, in Kansas City.

Count Four of the federal indictment alleges that **Anderson**, **Hill** and **Gilbert** illegally possessed a firearm during the Advanced Cellular and Pager Company robbery on Oct. 10, 2005, in Kansas City.

* **Aaron L. Jones**, 25, of Kansas City, was charged in a five-count indictment returned by a federal grand jury in Kansas City.

Count One of the federal indictment alleges that **Jones** distributed crack cocaine on May 17, 2005.

Count Two of the federal indictment alleges that **Jones** distributed crack cocaine within 1,000 feet of Westport High School on June 2, 2005.

Count Three of the federal indictment alleges that **Jones** distributed crack cocaine on June 27, 2005.

Count Four of the federal indictment alleges that **Jones** distributed crack cocaine on June 30, 2005.

Count Five of the federal indictment alleges that **Jones** possessed with intent to distribute crack cocaine on Aug. 4, 2005.

* **Michael L. Franklin**, 22, of Kansas City, was charged in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury in Kansas City.

The federal indictment alleges that **Franklin** possessed with intent to distribute 50 grams or more of crack cocaine on Oct. 31, 2005.

* **Paul F. Vann**, 48, of Kansas City, was charged in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury in Kansas City.

The federal indictment alleges that **Vann** distributed five grams or more of crack cocaine on Aug. 22, 2005.

These cases are being prosecuted by Special Assistant U.S. Attorney Matthew P. Wolesky. They were investigated as part of the Public Housing Safety Initiative, which is a partnership that includes the Kansas City, Mo., Police Department, Independence, Mo., Police Department, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development – Office of Inspector General.

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/index.html