



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

UPDATE: PROJECT CEASEFIRE
**15 DEFENDANTS INDICTED FOR ILLEGALLY
POSSESSING FIREARMS, AMMUNITION**

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that 15 defendants were indicted by a federal grand jury today, in separate and unrelated cases, for violating federal firearms laws. Today's indictments are part of Project Ceasefire, the district's ongoing anti-crime initiative.

* **Norma Flamenco-Lopez**, 46, a citizen of Honduras living in Kansas City, Mo., was indicted by a federal grand jury in Kansas City for being a felon in possession of a firearm and illegally re-entering the United States.

Count One of the federal indictment alleges that **Flamenco-Lopez** was in possession of a Raven Arms .25 caliber pistol on March 10, 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. **Flamenco-Lopez** has two 1992 criminal felony convictions for possession of stolen property and possession of cocaine.

Count Two of the federal indictment alleges that **Flamenco-Lopez** was an illegal alien in possession of a firearm. The indictment alleges that **Flamenco-Lopez**, a citizen from the Country of Honduras, was in possession of a Raven Arms .25 caliber pistol on March 10, 2004.

Count Three of the federal indictment alleges that **Flamenco-Lopez** illegally re-entered the United States after having been previously deported from the country. **Flamenco-Lopez** was deported following her 1992 criminal felony conviction for possession of cocaine.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney David A. Barnes. It was investigated by the Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

* **Anthony J. Ross**, 23, and **George W. Hill**, 24, both of Kansas City, Mo., were indicted by a federal grand jury in Kansas City for being felons in possession of a firearm.

The federal indictment alleges that **Ross** and **Hill** were in possession of a Russian SKS assault Rifle on Jan. 9, 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. **Ross** has a 1997 criminal felony conviction for felonious restraint. **Hill** has a 1999 criminal felony conviction for sale of a controlled substance.

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.

* **Travis H. Owens**, 39, of Kansas City, Mo., was indicted by a federal grand jury in Kansas City for being a felon in possession of ammunition.

The federal indictment alleges that **Owens** was in possession of 18 rounds of .22 caliber short ammunition and eight rounds of Remington .22 caliber ammunition on Jan. 23, 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. **Owens** has a 1982 criminal felony conviction for assault.

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.

* **Steven M. Umerdeen**, 36, of Kansas City, Mo., was indicted by a federal grand jury in Kansas City for being a felon in possession of a firearm.

The federal indictment alleges that **Umerdeen** was in possession of a Haskell .45 caliber semi-automatic pistol on April 4, 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. **Umerdeen** has a 1988 criminal felony conviction for murder in the second degree.

This case is being prosecuted by Special Assistant U.S. Attorney Michael J. Hunt. It was investigated by the Kansas City, Mo., Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

* **Robbie L. Sweet**, 28, of Belton, Mo., was indicted by a federal grand jury in Kansas City for being a felon in possession of a firearm.

The federal indictment alleges that **Sweet** was in possession of a Ruger .41 caliber revolver with five rounds of ammunition on March 9, 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. **Sweet** has a 1998 criminal felony conviction for assault and a 1995

criminal felony conviction for possession of a controlled substance.

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

* **Craig J. Crook**, 24, of Kansas City, Mo., was indicted by a federal grand jury in Kansas City for being a felon in possession of a firearm.

The federal indictment alleges that **Crook** was in possession of a Dan Wesson .357 caliber revolver on Sept. 20, 2003. 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. **Crook** has two 1998 criminal felony convictions for assault and armed criminal action.

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

* **Bobby L. Jones**, 50, of Kansas City, Mo., was indicted by a federal grand jury in Kansas City for being a felon in possession of a firearm.

The federal indictment alleges that **Jones** was in possession of an RG Industries .38 caliber revolver on Dec. 25, 2003. 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. **Jones** has a 1995 criminal felony conviction for statutory sodomy and a 1972 criminal felony conviction for assault.

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

* **Justen D. Johnson**, 19, of Kansas City, Mo., was indicted by a federal grand jury in Kansas City for receiving a firearm while under felony indictments.

The federal indictment alleges that **Johnson** was in possession of a Davis Industries .380 caliber semi-automatic pistol on Feb. 8, 2004. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for anyone who is knowingly under felony indictment to receive a firearm.

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

* **Victor M. Roman**, 26, address unknown, was indicted by a federal grand jury in Kansas City for being a felon in possession of a firearm.

The federal indictment alleges that **Roman** was in possession of a Stallard Arms Maverick 9 mm semi-automatic pistol on March 19, 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. **Roman** has three 1998 criminal felony convictions for possession of a controlled substance, unlawful use of a weapon and tampering.

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

* **Anthony A. Foreman**, 44, of Kansas City, Mo., was indicted by a federal grand jury in Kansas City for being a felon in possession of ammunition.

The federal indictment alleges that **Foreman** was in possession of 20 rounds of Winchester .38 caliber ammunition on Oct. 23, 2003. 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. **Foreman** has two 1997 criminal felony convictions for distributing, delivering and manufacturing a controlled substance.

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

* **Donald L. Hall, II**, 20, of Kansas City, Mo., was indicted by a federal grand jury in Kansas City for being a felon in possession of a firearm.

The federal indictment alleges that **Hall** was in possession of a Taurus .38 caliber special on March 16, 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. **Hall** has three 2001 criminal felony convictions for burglary and stealing.

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

* **Jeremy P. Whitley**, 24, of Independence, Mo., was indicted by a federal grand jury in Kansas City for being an unlawful user or addict of a controlled substance in possession of a firearm.

The federal indictment alleges that **Whitley** was in possession of a Taurus .38 caliber special revolver while also an unlawful user of methamphetamine on Oct. 29, 2003. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for anyone who is an unlawful user or addict of a controlled substance to be in possession of a firearm.

This case is being prosecuted by Special Assistant U.S. Attorney Angela C. Hasty. It was

investigated by the Independence, Mo., Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

* **David P. Birk**, 26, of Independence, Mo., was indicted by a federal grand jury in Kansas City for being an unlawful user or addict of a controlled substance in possession of a firearm.

The federal indictment alleges that **Birk** was in possession of a Raven Arms .25 caliber semi-automatic pistol while also an unlawful user of methamphetamine on March 2, 2004. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for anyone who is an unlawful user or addict of a controlled substance to be in possession of a firearm.

This case is being 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.

* **Ray E. Clevenger**, 28, of Independence, Mo., was indicted by a federal grand jury in Kansas City for being an unlawful user or addict of a controlled substance in possession of a firearm.

The federal indictment alleges that **Clevenger** was in possession of a Jennings 9 mm pistol while also an unlawful user of methamphetamine on Oct. 17, 2003. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for anyone who is an unlawful user or addict of a controlled substance to be in possession of a firearm.

This case is being prosecuted by Special Assistant U.S. Attorney Angela C. Hasty. 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. Since its inception, Project Ceasefire has resulted in charges against 590 defendants.

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