



U.S. Department of Justice
United States Attorney
District of Kansas

NEWS RELEASE

Eric Melgren, U.S. Attorney

Contact: Kena Rice

(316) 269-6481

Headquarters

1200 Epic Center
301 N. Main
Wichita, Kansas 67202
(316)269-6481
FAX (316)269-6484

Topeka Office

444 Quincy
Topeka, Kansas 66683

Kansas City Office

500 State Avenue
Suite 360
Kansas City, Kansas 66101

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TOPEKA MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO GUN CHARGE

TOPEKA, Kan. – United States Attorney Eric Melgren announced that **Robert Sirron Owens**, 26, Topeka, Kansas, entered a guilty plea today before U.S. District Judge Sam A. Crow to one count of **being an unlawful user of a controlled substance in possession of a firearm**.

Melgren said that Owens admitted at his plea that on February 6, 2004, officers with the Topeka Police Department executed a search warrant at a residence in Topeka, Kansas, and found the defendant lying on the living room floor. Owens further admitted that during a pat-down search of his person, officers found a firearm in his pants pocket. Owens admitted that he had been using marijuana for the past ten years and had used marijuana approximately three hours before the officers searched the residence.

Owens faces a maximum of ten years in federal prison without parole. Sentencing is set for November 30, 2004, at 2:00 p.m.

Melgren commended the excellent work of the Topeka Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives in this investigation and Assistant U.S. Attorney James Brown in this prosecution.