



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

# NEWS RELEASE

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Sept. 24, 2004

### TOPEKA MAN SENTENCED ON GUN CHARGE

TOPEKA, Kan. – United States Attorney Eric Melgren announced that **Deneco Scales**, 20, Topeka, Kansas, was sentenced Sept. 22 before U.S. District Judge Sam A. Crow to **60 months in prison followed by three years of supervised release.**

Scales pleaded guilty June 24, 2004 to one count of possessing a firearm during a drug trafficking crime. Scales admitted at his plea that on April 13, 2004 Topeka Police Department officers were called to the intersection of Gage and 29<sup>th</sup>, Topeka, Kansas, where witnesses described seeing two males shooting at a passing automobile.

Based on witness statements, police located and stopped a vehicle leaving a nearby residence. The automobile was driven by a woman and occupied by her daughter, another man and Deneco Scales. A search of the car revealed the following firearms: a Beretta .40 caliber semi-automatic handgun, a double-barreled sawed off 20 gauge shotgun, and an Iver Johnson .22 semi-automatic handgun. Scales was searched, incident to arrest, and recovered was approximately 1.13 grams of crack cocaine packaged in individual plastic bags.

Scales admitted that he was a prohibited person, due to his pending indictment/complaint for attempted murder in Shawnee County case 03 CR 2350. Scales and another man were at the payphone when a car driven by an acquaintance drove past, and they thought that acquaintance was going to fire a gun at them. They shot at this acquaintance and then ran to the home and put the guns in the trunk of the car in which they were then arrested. This vehicle was stopped by T.P.D. officers as it left this residence and the firearms were located in the trunk and recovered by T.P.D. crime-scene personnel.

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 Greg Hough in this prosecution.