

NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY

WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

PUBLIC HOUSING SAFETY INITIATIVE

**THREE DEFENDANTS INDICTED FOR MARIJUANA,
ILLEGAL FIREARMS**

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that three defendants were indicted by a federal grand jury today, in two separate and unrelated cases, as a result of the Public Housing Safety Initiative.

In both cases, Graves noted, the crimes alleged in the indictments occurred near federally-assisted housing areas.

Those investigations were conducted as part of the Public Housing Safety Initiative, an effort by the U.S. Departments of Justice and Housing and Urban Development to assist in the investigation, prosecution and prevention of violent crimes and drug offenses in public, federally assisted housing areas. To date, Graves said, 16 defendants have been indicted as a result of the initiative.

* **Aaron L. Givens**, 33, and **Donald W. Franklin**, 31, both of Kansas City, Mo., were charged in a three-count indictment returned by a federal grand jury in Kansas City.

Count One of the federal indictment alleges that **Givens** and **Franklin**, aiding and abetting each other, were in possession with intent to distribute marijuana on Nov. 14, 2005.

Counts Two and Three of the federal indictment allege that **Givens** and **Franklin** were felons in possession of firearms. **Givens** and **Franklin**, each having been convicted of felony crimes, were allegedly in possession of a Smith and Wesson .45-caliber revolver, a Smith and Wesson .38-caliber revolver, a Colt .25-caliber pistol, an AMT .45-caliber pistol, a Romarm 7.62 x 39 mm semi-automatic rifle and a Mossberg 12-gauge pump-action pistol grip shotgun on Nov. 14, 2005. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for anyone who is convicted of a felony to be in possession of any firearm or ammunition.!

This case is being prosecuted by Special Assistant U.S. Attorney Matthew P. Wolesky. It was investigated by the Kansas City, Mo., Police Department.

* **Kelvin L. Duley**, 30, of Kansas City, Mo., was charged with being a felon in possession of a firearm in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury in Kansas City.

Today's indictment alleges that **Duley**, having been convicted of felony crimes, was in possession of a Beretta .22-caliber semi-automatic pistol on Sept. 10, 2005. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for anyone who is convicted of a felony to be in possession of any firearm or ammunition.

This case is being prosecuted by Special Assistant U.S. Attorney Matthew P. Wolesky. It was investigated by 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.

Public Housing Safety Initiative

The Kansas City metropolitan area is one of 10 communities nationwide selected for the new initiative, which focuses 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 provides \$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 and cooperate with probation and parole efforts. Specifically, a portion of the funding is earmarked for the Kansas City, Mo., Police Department and the Independence, Mo., Police Department. Additionally, the federal initiative funded the hiring of a Special Assistant U.S. Attorney to prosecute crimes occurring within federally-assisted housing areas.

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.

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