

# NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY

WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

## BRADLEY J. SCHLOZMAN

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### PUBLIC HOUSING SAFETY INITIATIVE

### TWO KC MEN INDICTED FOR CRACK COCAINE, ILLEGAL FIREARM

**KANSAS CITY, Mo.** – Bradley J. Schlozman, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that two Kansas City, Mo, men were indicted by a federal grand jury today, in separate and unrelated cases, as a result of the Public Housing Safety Initiative.

In both cases, Schlozman 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, Schlozman said, 19 defendants have been indicted as a result of the initiative.

\* **Denaine L. Allen**, 47, of Kansas City, was charged in a two-count indictment returned by a federal grand jury in Kansas City.

Count One of the federal indictment alleges that **Allen** was in possession with intent to distribute five grams or more of crack cocaine on March 15, 2006.

Count Two of the federal indictment alleges that **Allen**, having been convicted of felony crimes, was in possession of a Phoenix Arms .25-caliber semi-automatic handgun

on March 15, 2006. Under federal law, Schlozman explained, it is illegal for anyone convicted of a felony to be in possession of any firearm or ammunition.

\* **Dana A. Braden**, 33, of Kansas City, was charged with being in possession with intent to distribute five grams or more of crack cocaine on Feb. 16, 2006. Today's indictment replaces a federal criminal complaint that was filed against **Braden** on March 7, 2006.

According to an affidavit filed in support of the original criminal complaint, **Braden** was arrested by Kansas City police officers on Feb. 16, 2006, after they observed him driving a vehicle with expired license plates. Police officers searched his vehicle and found 11 plastic baggies containing a total of approximately 20 grams of crack cocaine in the fuse box located in the front dash of the vehicle, the affidavit says.

Schlozman cautioned that the charges contained in the 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.

These cases are being prosecuted by Special Assistant U.S. Attorney Matthew P. Wolesky. They were investigated by the Kansas City, Mo., Police Department.

### **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.

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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](http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow/index.html)