

# NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY

WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### PUBLIC HOUSING SAFETY INITIATIVE

#### KC, RAYTOWN MEN INDICTED FOR CRIME SPREE,

#### ARMED ROBBERIES

**KANSAS CITY, Mo.** – Bradley J. Schlozman, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a Kansas City, Mo., man and a Raytown, Mo., man were indicted by a federal grand jury today for a two-month crime spree that involved a series of armed robberies, carjackings and firearms violations and ended in a high speed chase and collision.

Many of the robberies alleged in the indictment occurred near federally-assisted housing areas, Schlozman said, therefore this case is 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, 24 defendants have been indicted as a result of the initiative.

**Morris L. Mitchell**, 46, of Raytown, and **Ramar D. Brown**, 32, of Kansas City, were charged in a 40-count indictment returned by a federal grand jury in Kansas City.

Count One of the federal indictment alleges that **Mitchell** and **Brown** participated in a conspiracy that involved a series of armed robberies, carjackings and firearms violations from November to Dec. 15, 2005. According to the indictment, **Mitchell** and **Brown** would steal or carjack a car to use in the robberies. One or both defendants would allegedly enter the business, brandishing a firearm, threatening the clerk, and demanding

money. In many of the robberies, the indictment says, one defendant would act as a look-out and getaway driver for the other.

According to the indictment, **Mitchell** and **Brown** fled from police in a high-speed car chase on Dec. 13, 2005, in a car they had stolen at gunpoint earlier that day while the owner was fueling the car at a gas station. The indictment alleges that **Mitchell** pulled a gun and pointed it at the driver, telling her, "I'm taking your car," while **Brown** pulled a passenger out of the car. **Mitchell** and **Brown** allegedly used the car to commit seven armed robberies on that day before fleeing from police officers. During that pursuit, **Brown** pulled the vehicle over, jumped out and fled from police on foot. **Mitchell** then moved to the driver's seat and continued to flee from the police in a high-speed car chase. During the car chase, the indictment says, **Mitchell** ran red lights, drove the wrong way into oncoming traffic, ran stop signs, and drove the stolen vehicle off of the roadway. The case ended in Kansas City, Kan., after **Mitchell** drove the stolen vehicle the wrong way down 7<sup>th</sup> Street and collided with another vehicle, causing serious physical injury to the driver of that vehicle.

On Dec. 15, 2005, the indictment alleges that **Brown** resisted arrest by Kansas City police officers when the officers contacted him at the Motel 6, located at 6400 E. 87<sup>th</sup> St. According to the indictment, **Brown** pointed an R.G. Industries .38-caliber revolver at the officers as they entered the motel room to arrest him. **Brown** allegedly told the officers, "I should have shot you when I had the chance."

Thirteen counts of the federal indictment allege separate armed robberies committed by **Mitchell** and **Brown** in Kansas City during 2005: Subway at 3214 Main St., on Nov. 23, Millennium Super Stop at 1603 W. 12<sup>th</sup> St., on Oct. 5, Berbiglia at 3120 Gillham Plaza, on Dec. 6, Walgreens at 2501 Linwood Blvd., on Dec. 7, Walgreens at 4630 Troost Ave., on Dec. 7, Family Dollar at 634 Prospect on Dec. 9, Osco Drug at 3106 Prospect Ave., on Dec. 11, Shell Gas Station at 8435 E. 63<sup>rd</sup> St., on Dec. 13, Fast Stop at 7100 Eastwood Trafficway on Dec. 13, Fashion Cents at 3120 Prospect Ave., on Dec. 13, U-Haul at 1530 Locust St., on Dec. 13, Family Dollar at 7500 Prospect Ave., on Dec. 13, and Enterprise Car Rental at 600 Grand Blvd., on Dec. 13.

Twelve counts of the federal indictment allege separate instances in which **Mitchell** and **Brown** brandished a firearm during and in relation to a crime of violence, referring to those armed robberies.

Count Thirty of the federal indictment alleges that **Mitchell** and **Brown** robbed the McDonalds at 5220 Bannister Rd., on Dec. 13, 2005, by threatening an employee by stating that they had a gun.

Four counts of the federal indictment allege separate armed robberies committed by **Brown** in Kansas City during 2005: Shell Gas Station at 1901 N.E. Russell Rd., on Nov. 12 and again on Dec. 8, Simply Fashions at 3135 Prospect Ave., on Dec. 10, and Family Dollar at 3156 Troost Ave., on Dec. 12.

Three counts of the federal indictment allege separate instances in which **Brown** brandished a firearm during and in relation to a crime of violence, referring to those armed robberies. The indictment alleges that **Brown** used a knife during the robbery of the Shell Gas Station on Nov. 12, 2005.

Count Five of the federal indictment alleges that **Brown** robbed Naughty But Nice at 8910 E. 40 Hwy., on Nov. 24, 2005. According to the indictment, **Brown** asked the clerk for a product behind the counter. When the clerk turned around, **Brown** allegedly pulled out a can of pepper spray and sprayed the clerk in the face. **Brown** then attempted to open the cash register, the indictment says, and when he could not get it to open, he picked up the entire cash register and fled the business with it.

Count Two of the federal indictment alleges that **Mitchell** carjacked a 2000 Dodge Neon on Oct. 22, 2005.

Count Twenty-Four of the federal indictment alleges that **Mitchell** and **Brown** carjacked a 2002 Chevrolet Monte Carlo on Dec. 13, 2005.

Count Twenty-Five of the federal indictment alleges that **Mitchell** and **Brown** brandished a firearm during and relation to a crime of violence, referring to the carjacking on Dec. 13, 2005.

Count Thirty-Nine of the federal indictment alleges that **Mitchell**, having been convicted of felony crimes – including three violent felonies – was in possession an R. G. Industries .38-caliber revolver on Dec. 13, 2005. Under federal law, Schlozman explained, it is illegal for anyone convicted of a felony to be in possession of any firearm or ammunition.

Count Forty of the federal indictment alleges that **Brown**, having been convicted of felony crimes, was in possession an R. G. Industries .38-caliber revolver on Dec. 15, 2005.

Schlozman cautioned that the charges contained in the indictment 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.

This case is being prosecuted by Special Assistant U.S. Attorney Matthew P. Wolesky. It was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Kansas City, Mo., Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

### **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 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.

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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)