

JACKSON COUNTY DRUG TASK FORCE



2020 ANNUAL REPORT

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JACKSON COUNTY DRUG TASK FORCE

In 1986, the Jackson County Missouri Drug Task Force (Task Force) was organized as a multi-jurisdictional investigative initiative in response to an emerging drug problem within the county. Throughout the 1980's, drug trafficking and an active drug culture were a part of daily life throughout Kansas City, Missouri, and much of Jackson County. Illicit drugs, such as crack cocaine, methamphetamine, and PCP, were openly traded on street corners. Drug houses and methamphetamine labs literally sprung up throughout our county overnight. During its initial years, the Task Force was funded through private donations and one grant.

In 1989, Jackson County voters approved a new one-quarter of one-percent anti-drug sales tax, which later became known as the Community Backed Anti-Crime Tax (COMBAT). The tax would support a broad-based attack on drug abuse and drug-related violent crimes. One of the enforcement initiatives of COMBAT funding was the Jackson County Drug Task Force.

The tax was renewed for seven-year periods in 1995, 2004, 2009 and 2016. The COMBAT tax now entirely funds the JCDF, providing the Task Force with an adjusted budget of \$2,621,256 in 2020.

JACKSON COUNTY DRUG TASK FORCE MISSION

The County of Jackson has approximately 604.84 square miles. With a population of 700,307 according to the Census Bureau, Jackson County is the second most populous of Missouri's counties, after St. Louis County. The Task Force primarily focuses on the eastern and southern portions of the county, which includes all suburban jurisdictions and unincorporated areas. The purpose of the Task Force is to provide a combined and unified response to the drug- and narcotics-related violent crime problem as it exists in Jackson County.

While Task Force participates with all federal, state and local Kansas City area law enforcement agencies, its primary investigative mission and focus continues to be on the outlying areas of the county, which are not adequately serviced by other agencies. In 2020, the Task Force participated in an Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force (OCDETF) with the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Drug Enforcement Administration and the Department of Homeland Security. These partnerships allowed the Task Force to be partially reimbursed for narcotics buy money and overtime costs associated with the federal investigations. The Task Force was actively involved in five OCDETF investigations in 2020.

In 2011, an agreement was signed with the Missouri National Guard to provide one Intelligence Analyst to assist with long-term investigations. This agreement continued in 2020.

A Task Force detective obtained a high-level security clearance from the Federal Bureau of Investigation in order to assist in investigations involving large-scale Transnational Criminal Drug Organizations. Additionally, the Task Force is coordinating with the Drug Enforcement Administration, the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Kansas City Metro Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force Strike Force to address the increasing problem of local gangs. These gangs have set up sophisticated distribution networks in Jackson County and are obtaining large amounts of illegal drugs from Mexican based Drug Trafficking Organizations.

The Jackson County Drug Task Force faced unprecedented challenges in 2020. In an attempt to curb the transmission of COVID-19, Jackson County implemented a stay-at-home order to all non-essential workers. The measures adopted to contain the virus significantly affected the prosecution of criminal cases in the courts at both the Federal and State levels. Many scheduled proceedings were postponed or concealed.

State and Federal prosecutors prioritized the more serious cases when deciding whether criminal charges would be filed in the wake of the shut downs. As a result "new" investigations and prosecutions were limited and only the most serious cases were prosecuted.

JACKSON COUNTY DRUG TASK FORCE ORGANIZATION

The Jackson County Drug Task Force is a voluntary law enforcement organization that operates under the direction of an Executive Board comprised of representatives from fourteen (14) law enforcement agencies in Jackson County. Each of these law enforcement agencies has signed an Agreement for Law Enforcement Services with the Task Force.

The Executive Board of the Task Force includes the Police Chiefs from each of the participating cities and the Sheriff of Jackson County. A representative from the Missouri State Highway Patrol and the Federal Bureau of Investigation attend the Executive Board meetings in a spirit of cooperation and to coordinate efforts.

Seven (7) of the participating law enforcement agencies and the Jackson County Sherriff's Office contribute or "loan" manpower to the Task Force. All salaries, benefits, equipment and other associated costs with personnel assigned to the Task Force are reimbursed 100% by the Task Force. Costs for reimbursement are paid from grants and funding generated by the county-wide anti-crime sales tax (COMBAT) that provides funding for the Task Force.

Participating agencies include:

- **Blue Springs Police - 3 Investigators**
- **Buckner Police**
- **Grain Valley Police – 1 Investigator (vacant)**
- **Grandview Police - 1 Sergeant, 2 Investigators**
- **Greenwood Police**
- **Independence Police – 1 Sergeant, 1 Investigators (2 vacant)**
- **Jackson County – 1 OIC, 1 Administrative, 1 Property Officer**
- **Jackson County Sheriff – 3 Investigators**
- **Lake Lotawana Police**
- **Lee's Summit Police - 4 Investigators**
- **Lone Jack Police**
- **Missouri State Highway Patrol**
- **Oak Grove Police - 1 Investigator**
- **Raytown Police**
- **Sugar Creek Police - 1 Investigator**

The Task Force also has two positions on loan from the following:

- **Missouri National Guard – 1 Analyst (Non-Sworn)**
- **Drug Enforcement Administration – 1 Special Agent (vacant)**

KANSAS CITY METRO ORGANIZED CRIME DRUG ENFORCEMENT TASK FORCE STRIKE FORCE

The Jackson County Drug Task Force continued the partnership with the Kansas City Metro Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force Strike Force (KCMSF). The Jackson County Drug Task Force is one of four local agencies participating in the KCMSF, along with the Kansas City, Missouri, and Kansas City, Kansas, police departments and the Kansas Bureau of Investigation. The Jackson County Drug Task Force will be joining forces with multiple federal agencies, including the Federal Bureau of Investigation; the Drug Enforcement Administration; the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms; the Department of Homeland Security; the Postal Inspection Service; and Internal Revenue Service.

The Kansas City metropolitan area is near the geographical center of the United States and at the intersection of several of the nation's busiest interstate highways, thus making it a major transit point for the transportation of drugs, firearms, and illicit proceeds to and from significant market areas across the country.

The KCMSF focus will be major criminal organizations, including criminal gangs, transnational drug cartels and other groups engaged in illicit activities that present a threat to public safety. The KCMSF will place special emphasis on addressing the significant methamphetamine threat identified in Jackson County and the Kansas City metropolitan area.

The KCMSF presents a united front against drug trafficking and violent crime throughout the metropolitan area coordinating agents and officers from both Missouri and Kansas with additional investigative resources to better protect our community from the violent scourge of drug trafficking.

Greater Kansas City joins these other metropolitan regions with Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force Strike Forces: Atlanta, Baltimore, Boston, Chicago, Cleveland, Denver, El Paso, Houston, Los Angeles, New York City, North Texas, Phoenix, Sacramento, San Diego, San Juan, southeast Michigan and Tampa.

OPERATION LEGEND

Operation LeGend is a federal partnership with local law enforcement agencies including the Jackson County Drug Task Force to address the increase in homicides and violent crime in Kansas City, Missouri. The operation honors the memory of four-year-old LeGend Taliferro, one of the youngest fatalities during a record-breaking year of homicides and shootings in Kansas City, Missouri. Additional federal agents were assigned to the operation from the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Drug Enforcement Administration, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, and the U.S. Marshals Service.

Operation LeGend was implemented as a short-term, high-impact strategy to address the escalation of violent crime and respond to the record number of homicides in Kansas City and other cities across the United States.

Operation Legend was deployed in Chicago, Kansas City, Albuquerque, Cleveland, Detroit, Milwaukee, St. Louis, Memphis and Indianapolis. It was named after four-year-old LeGend Taliferro, who died in June after being shot while sleeping at home in Kansas City, Missouri. The man suspected of killing Taliferro was arrested in August.

NATIONAL INTERGRATED BALLISTICS IDENTIFICATION SYSTEM

The Task Force established a program in which all recovered firearms will be test fired and the shell casings will be submitted into the National Integrated Ballistics Information Network (NIBIN) through the use of the Integrated Ballistics Identification System (IBS).

NIBEN is a national network system administered by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF) to assist Law Enforcement in solving firearms-related crimes. IBS is the collection of electronic images of ballistic evidence recovered from crime scenes and test fired firearms that have been taken into law enforcement custody. IBIS is a proven investigative and intelligence tool which can assist in the identification of leads that were not previously available, can link firearms evidence from multiple crimes committed with the same firearm and can link firearms evidence from a crime scene to a recovered firearm.

In 2020 The Jackson County Drug Task Force recovered a total of 82 firearms. A total of 65 were test fired and submitted into the NIBIN through the IBS. Additionally, 28 firearms were "swabbed" for DNA samples.

CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES SEIZED/PURCHASED

2020	Grams/Dose	Value
Methamphetamine	64,247.20 g	\$7,709,664
Cocaine	1,352.96 g	\$182,650.00
Heroin	2,831.41 g	\$801,289.00
Fentanyl	3,228 pills	\$258,240
Oxycodone	1,049 pills	\$83,920
MDMA (Ecstasy)	123 pills	\$2,460
LSD	1 dose	\$8.00
Phencyclidine (PCP)	351.22 g	\$6,900
Psilocybin (Mushrooms)	276 g	\$24,650
Prescription Pills	705.5	\$35,275
Marijuana	13,791.4 g	\$344,785.00
THC Edibles	172.9 g	\$8,818.00
THC Wax	1,385 g	\$138,500
THC Vape Cartridges	384	\$19,200

FIREARMS SEIZED/PURCHASED

Long Guns \$500 / each	Hand Guns \$400 / each
32	50
\$16,000	\$20,000

TOTAL VALUE OF ALL CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES SEIZED

Drug values based on adjusted street prices for illegal drugs 2020 Office of National Drug Control Policy Data

\$9,635,079.00

STATISTICS

	Cases Opened	Cases Closed	Search Warrants	Knock-n-Talks	Presentations	Narcotics Purchases	Money Recovered	Meth Labs Processed	Marijuana Growers Processed
2010	149	67	71	78	6	178	\$140,602	7	8
2011	201	32	42	56	12	127	\$111,134	4	1
2012	124	206	73	66	10	180	\$411,048	1	3
2013	119	173	92	30	21	408	\$275,876	0	3
2014	74	208	48	48	1	158	\$424,762	0	2
2015	127	199	58	82	1	218	\$330,372	0	1
2016	132	301	61	21	4	170	\$136,261	1	0
2017	92	114	50	10	9	140	\$135,475	0	0
2018	80	110	50	6	8	170	\$302,206	0	2
2019	76	204	54	12	3	123	\$216,246	0	0
2020	76	45	32	0	1	135	\$64,479	0	0

CASE COMPARISON

	Total Cases Presented	Federal Cases	State Cases	Arrests	Warrant Arrests	Detectives Funded	Value of Seized Narcotics
2010	52	5	47	227		14	\$1,054,321
2011	271	186	85	244		14	\$4,871,131
2012	339	250	89	427		13	\$4,116,215
2013	205	128	65	177		11	\$7,568,018
2014	204	106	98	209		11	\$8,894,042
2015	216	122	82	262	225	12	\$6,530,240
2016	290	215	75	292	222	13	\$5,218,156
2017	213	166	47	269	200	11	\$13,461,484
2018	92	65	27	187	94	14	\$16,149,483
2019	204	172	35	228	106	13	\$30,451,473
2020	180	135	45	159	64	15	\$9,635,079

PROSECUTION COMPARISON

Cases presented for prosecution

Federal										
2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
5	186	250	128	106	122	215	166	65	172	135

State										
2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
47	85	89	65	98	82	75	47	27	35	45

2020 DRUG COMPLAINT REPORT

During 2020, the Jackson County Drug Task Force received a total of 35 Drug Complaints. The following table is a statistical break down of the complaint location by jurisdiction and the sources from which the complaints were received.

Jurisdiction	Number of Complaints Received	%	Source of Received Complaints	%
Blue Springs	4	11.4%		
Buckner	0			
Grain Valley	1	2.8%		
Grandview	10	28.5%		
Greenwood	1	2.8%		
Independence	6	17.1%		
Jackson County	1	2.8%		
Kansas City, MO	6	17.1%		
Lake Lotawana	0			
Lake Tapawingo	0			
Lee's Summit	4	11.4%		
Lone Jack	0			
Oak Grove	0			
Raytown	1	2.8%		
Sibley	0			
Sugar Creek	1	2.8%		
Tarsney Lake	0			
		100%		
COMBAT				
Confidential Informant			3	8.5%
Facebook			1	2.8%
Task Force Phone Tips			3	8.5%
Outside Agencies			16	45.7%
Tips Hotline			0	
Combat			0	
KC Crime Stoppers			12	34.2%

**JACKSON COUNTY
DRUG TASK FORCE**

2020

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Western District of Missouri

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, January 13, 2020

Eleven Area Residents Indicted for \$1.7 Million Meth, Heroin Conspiracy, Numerous Firearms

Officers Seized 77 Firearms, Large Amounts of Illegal Drugs During the Investigation

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Eleven defendants have been indicted for their roles in a \$1.7 million conspiracy to distribute 150 kilograms of methamphetamine and 10 kilograms of heroin, as well as illegally possessing numerous firearms.

Kamel Mahgub Elburki, 31, Ashley Brooke Clevenger, 37, Edward Jason Alberty Jr., 23, Rachel Gale Simpson, 36, Daniel Jessie Ruiz, 35, and Matthew John Fabulae, 30, all of Kansas City, Missouri; Cory Matthew Jobe, 27, of Independence, Missouri; Tayler Charles Jones, 25, of Liberty, Missouri; Ashley Anne Fries, 23, of Riverside, Missouri; Justin Ren'e Ramirez, 23, of Bolivar, Missouri; and Richard Dean Saettone II, 39, address unknown, were charged in a 22-count indictment returned under seal by a federal grand jury in Kansas City on Dec. 12, 2019. That indictment has been unsealed and made public following the arrests and initial court appearances of the defendants.

The federal indictment alleges that all of the defendants participated in a conspiracy to distribute methamphetamine and heroin and in a money-laundering conspiracy from Jan. 1, 2017, to Dec. 12, 2109.

According to court records, law enforcement officers seized 77 firearms during the course of the investigation. Among those firearms were 69 firearms seized at Ruiz's residence, including 45 firearms seized on Feb. 22, 2019, and 20 firearms seized on Oct. 23, 2019, and four firearms seized on Dec. 2, 2019.

The federal indictment replaces a criminal complaint filed against Fabulae on Nov. 26, 2019. According to an affidavit filed in support of the original complaint, Fabulae was involved in at least two shooting incidents. On Feb. 12, 2019, officers attempted to conduct a traffic stop in the Quik Trip parking lot at 7100 NE Parvin Rd., but Fabulae drove out of the parking lot and led officers on a pursuit. Fabulae entered the eastbound lanes while driving westbound into opposing traffic, the affidavit says, then drove his Jeep off the road and up a hill. Fabulae got out of the vehicle with his dog and ran into some trees and brush. Officers found Fabulae hiding inside a large trash dumpster in a nearby parking lot and arrested him. He was carrying two grams of methamphetamine, a firearm magazine, and \$1,096. Officers also located the drawstring backpack he had been carrying and discarded, the affidavit says, which contained 48 grams of cocaine HCL, 10 grams of marijuana, and 280 grams of methamphetamine. Officers found a Springfield Armory .45-caliber handgun near the location where the foot chase began. Officers searched Fabulae's vehicle and found four cell phones, a tablet, a laptop, and ammunition.

The federal indictment replaces criminal complaints filed against Ruiz and Saettone on Dec. 3, 2019. According to the affidavits filed in support of those complaints, Ruiz and Saettone were arrested that day after Saettone purchased methamphetamine from Ruiz at Ruiz's residence. Officers stopped Saettone as he was leaving Ruiz's residence. Saettone, the affidavit says, was carrying approximately 280 grams of methamphetamine and a loaded SCCY 9mm semi-automatic handgun.

According to the affidavit, officers executed a search warrant at Ruiz's residence on Dec. 2, 2019, and officers seized well over a kilogram of methamphetamine buried in a large metal trash can full of dog food, located in the front room. Officers also seized a Glock .40-caliber handgun with an extended magazine, a Smith and Wesson AR-15-style rifle, an FIE .25-caliber automatic handgun, a Glock .357-caliber handgun, ammunition, a World War II-era gas grenade, multiple packages of suspected marijuana, and more than \$2,000.

An earlier search warrant had been executed at Ruiz's residence on Feb. 22, 2019, when officers seized 45 firearms, more than three kilograms of methamphetamine and approximately \$66,000. A search warrant had also been executed at Ruiz's residence on Oct. 23, 2019, after investigators discovered a FedEx parcel sent to that address, which contained 5.4 pounds of marijuana. Investigators conducted a controlled delivery of the parcel, the affidavit says, which Ruiz (using an alias) accepted. Officers arrested Ruiz and searched his residence, seizing 20 firearms and more than 600 grams of methamphetamine.

In addition to the conspiracies charged in the indictment, Elburki, Jones, Alberty, Simpson, Jobe, Ramirez, Ruiz, Fabulae, and Saettone were also charged together in one count of possessing 500 grams of methamphetamine and one kilogram of heroin to distribute.

Elburki, Jones, Alberty, Jobe, Ramirez, Ruiz, Fries, Fabulae, and Saettone each were charged with one count of possessing, carrying, or using a firearm in furtherance of a drug-trafficking crime. Elburki, Jones, Jobe, Fries, Fabulae, and Saettone each were charged with one count of being a felon in possession of a firearm and ammunition. Alberty, Ramirez, Ruiz, and Fabulae each were charged with one count of being a drug user in possession of firearms and ammunition.

The indictment also contains a forfeiture allegation, which would require the defendants to forfeit to the government any proceeds obtained from the alleged drug-trafficking conspiracy, including a money judgment of approximately \$1,745,000, which allegedly was received in exchange for the distribution of more than 150 kilograms of methamphetamine (based on an average street price of \$250 per ounce) and more than 10 kilograms of heroin (based on an average street price of \$1,200 per ounce).

The charges contained in this 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 Assistant U.S. Attorney Bruce Rhoades. It was investigated by the Kansas City, Mo., Police Department, the Drug Enforcement Administration, the Clay County, Mo., Sheriff's Department, the Jackson County Drug Task Force, the Buchanan County, Mo., Sheriff's Department, the Buchanan County Drug Strike Force, and IRS-Criminal Investigation.

KC Metro Strike Force

This prosecution was brought as a part of the Department of Justice's Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Forces (OCDETF) Co-located Strike Forces Initiative, which provides for the establishment of permanent multi-agency task force teams that work side-by-side in the same location. This co-located model enables agents from different agencies to collaborate on intelligence-driven, multi-jurisdictional operations against a continuum of priority targets and their affiliate illicit financial networks. These prosecutor-led co-located Strike Forces capitalize on the synergy created through the long-term relationships that can be forged by agents, analysts, and prosecutors who remain together over time, and they epitomize the model that has proven most effective in combating organized crime. The principal mission of the OCDETF program is to identify, disrupt, and dismantle the most serious drug trafficking organizations, transnational criminal organizations, and money laundering organizations that present a significant threat to the public safety, economic, or national security of the United States.

Department of Justice
U.S. Attorney's Office
Western District of Missouri

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Tuesday, February 25, 2020

St. Joseph Man Sentenced to 15 Years for Leading \$2.1 Million Meth Conspiracy

Distributed More Than 100 Kilos of Meth in Buchanan, Clinton, Nodaway Counties
KANSAS CITY, Mo. – A St. Joseph, Missouri, man was sentenced in federal court today for leading a \$2.1 million conspiracy that distributed more than 100 kilograms of methamphetamine in Buchanan, Clinton, and Nodaway counties.

James Patrick Pardee II, 29, was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Stephen R. Bough to 15 years in federal prison without parole. The court also ordered Pardee to pay the government a money judgment of \$2.1 million, which represents the amount of money received in exchange for the unlawful distribution of methamphetamine.

On Sept. 4, 2019, Pardee pleaded guilty to one count of conspiracy to distribute methamphetamine from Jan. 1, 2015, to Nov. 16, 2017, and one count of conspiracy to commit money laundering.

Law enforcement investigators identified Pardee as the head of the organization coordinating large shipments of methamphetamine from the Kansas City area to Buchanan County, Clinton County, and Nodaway County, where it was then redistributed by Pardee and others.

Pardee was arrested following a high-speed chase on Sept. 23, 2017. Plattsburg, Missouri, police officers attempted to conduct a traffic stop for a lane violation on a black Audi A4 driven by Pardee. Pardee fled from officers at speeds exceeding 100 miles per hour for approximately nine miles, until his vehicle crashed into a guardrail. Pardee and a female passenger got out of the vehicle; Pardee was arrested and the female passenger escaped. Officers found a backpack inside the vehicle that contained numerous clear plastic baggies with a total of more than 2.1 kilograms of methamphetamine.

Investigators later determined that Pardee had recently sold approximately one kilogram of methamphetamine. Pardee admitted that he had sold more than three kilograms of methamphetamine every other day for the past three months.

Pardee is the second defendant to be sentenced in this case. Michael Robert Ramsel, 28, of St. Joseph, pleaded guilty to the same charges and was sentenced to 13 years and six months in federal prison without parole. Eleesea Leeann Crail, 27, Johnathan Scott Graf, 31, and Adam Christopher Lowe, 40, all of St. Joseph, have pleaded guilty to the same charges and await sentencing.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Bruce Rhoades. It was investigated by the Drug Enforcement Administration, the Plattsburg, Mo., Police Department; the Atchison County, Kan., Sheriff's Department; the Buchanan County Drug Strike Force and Sheriff's Department; the Jackson County Drug Task Force; the Clinton County, Mo., Sheriff's Department; the Missouri State Highway Patrol; the Cass County, Mo., Sheriff's Department; and the Clay County Drug Task Force.

Department of Justice
U.S. Attorney's Office
Western District of Missouri

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Friday, June 5, 2020

Independence Man Sentenced to 14 Years for Meth Conspiracy

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – An Independence, Missouri, man was sentenced in federal court today for his role in a conspiracy to distribute methamphetamine.

Daniel W. Pendergrass, 42, was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Brian C. Wimes to 14 years and one month in federal prison without parole.

On June 12, 2019, Pendergrass pleaded guilty to participating in a conspiracy to distribute methamphetamine. Pendergrass was an active participant in a methamphetamine distribution operation that distributed more than 40 kilograms of methamphetamine throughout the Kansas City metropolitan area. He coordinated methamphetamine transactions, distributed methamphetamine to individuals, collected and counted the money received for the methamphetamine, and used his vehicle to distribute methamphetamine. When Pendergrass was arrested, he was in possession of 194 grams of methamphetamine.

Pendergrass is the second defendant to be sentenced in this case. Co-defendant Lynette Marie Roberts, 29, of Gladstone, Missouri, was sentenced to 10 years in federal prison without parole.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Matthew Moeder. It was investigated by the Jackson County Drug Task Force.

Department of Justice
U.S. Attorney's Office
Western District of Missouri

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Tuesday, June 9, 2020

**Oak Grove Man Sentenced to 20 Years for Distributing Heroin
Resulting in Fatal Overdose**

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – An Oak Grove, Missouri, man was sentenced in federal court today for distributing the heroin that resulted in the overdose death of an Arizona man visiting his family in Lee's Summit, Missouri.

Joshua Austin Leroux, 35, was sentenced by U.S. Chief District Judge Beth Phillips to 20 years in federal prison without parole.

On Nov. 13, 2019, Leroux pleaded guilty to one count of distributing heroin that caused the death of a man identified in court documents as "M.A.C." Leroux admitted that he distributed heroin to M.A.C. on Sept. 3, 2017. After M.A.C. acquired the heroin from Leroux, he ingested it at some point on Sept. 3, or the morning of Sept. 4, 2017. The Jackson County Medical Examiner, after conducting an autopsy, declared that the cause of M.A.C.'s death was heroin intoxication.

This case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney D. Michael Green. It was investigated by the Drug Enforcement Administration and the Jackson County Drug Task Force.

Department of Justice
U.S. Attorney's Office
Western District of Missouri

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Friday, July 31, 2020

Operation LeGend Results in 97 Arrests to Date, Including Five Murder Suspects

Officers Seized 35 Firearms, Nearly Three Kilos of Meth

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – U.S. Attorney Tim Garrison announced today that 97 arrests have been made by local and federal law enforcement officers in less than two weeks since the launch of Operation LeGend.

“This is the impact of a targeted initiative to reduce violent crime, carried out by local and federal law enforcement working together,” Garrison said. “Many of those who were arrested were illegally carrying firearms or illegal drugs. By bringing them to justice, we reduce the level of violence on the street and the threat of crime in our neighborhoods.”

“This is our first detailed report to update the public on the progress against violent crime that has been achieved as a result of Operation LeGend,” Garrison added. “We are striving to maintain as much transparency as possible for an ongoing law enforcement operation. I’ve been communicating with local pastors, community leaders, victims of violent crime, and public officials, and will continue to provide regular updates.”

Among those arrested from July 15 to July 31, new federal charges have been filed against 11 defendants. Nine defendants were charged with illegally possessing firearms, one defendant was charged with drug trafficking, and one defendant was charged with carjacking.

Among the remaining 88 arrests, 49 were fugitives with either state or federal warrants for their arrest. The remaining 39 non-fugitive arrests were referred for prosecution in state court. Five arrests were for homicides. Other offenses cited in the arrests included assault, drug trafficking, illegally possessing firearms, robbery, child molestation, and sexual assault.

In addition to the arrests, agents and officers seized 35 firearms, a total of nearly three kilograms of methamphetamine, hundreds of pills (including oxycontin and ecstasy), heroin, cocaine, crack cocaine, and nearly \$40,000 in cash.

Operation LeGend

Operation LeGend is a federal partnership with local law enforcement to address the increase in homicides and violent crime in Kansas City, Mo., in 2020. The operation honors the memory of four-year-old LeGend Taliferro, one of the youngest fatalities during a record-breaking year of homicides and shootings. Additional federal agents were assigned to the operation from the FBI, Drug Enforcement Administration, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, and the U.S. Marshals Service.

Department of Justice
U.S. Attorney's Office
Western District of Missouri

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Friday, August 7, 2020

Operation LeGend Results in 59 More Arrests, Including Seven More Murder Suspects

Officers Seized 17 More Firearms, Stolen Vehicles, Illegal Drugs

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – U.S. Attorney Tim Garrison announced today that 59 additional arrests have been made in the past week by local and federal law enforcement officers in Operation LeGend, for a total of 156 arrests since the start of the operation.



Pastor Darron Edwards welcomed U.S. Attorney Tim Garrison to a meeting with about 20 local pastors at United Believers Community Church to discuss Operation LeGend.

Among those arrested since Aug. 1, new federal charges have been filed against six defendants, for a total of 17 new federal cases in Operation LeGend. All of the new federal defendants were charged with firearms-related crimes. Four of the six new defendants were charged with being felons in possession of firearms. One defendant was charged with heroin trafficking and illegally possessing a firearm. One defendant was charged with participating in a conspiracy to commit armed robberies at several local businesses.

Among the remaining 53 arrests in the past week, 35 were fugitives with either state or federal warrants for their arrest. The remaining 18 non-fugitive arrests were referred for prosecution in state court. Seven arrests were for homicides, for a total of 12 homicide arrests under Operation LeGend. Other offenses cited in the arrests included assault (including non-fatal shootings), drug trafficking, illegally possessing firearms, robbery, bank robbery, child molestation, sexual assault, possessing stolen property and possessing stolen firearms.



U.S. Attorney Tim Garrison met with a group of pastors this week to discuss Operation LeGend, listen to their concerns, and respond to their questions.

In addition to the arrests, in the past week agents and officers seized 17 firearms (for a total of 52 firearms seized during Operation LeGend); a number of stolen vehicles and motorcycles; 210 THC cartridges; quantities of cocaine, crack cocaine, methamphetamine, heroin, and marijuana; and \$52,000.

The U.S. Attorney's Office is not able to track cases that are referred for prosecution in state court. The following defendants have been charged in federal court in the past week:

Terrell L. Releford, felon in possession of a firearm;
Dustin M. Jordan, felon in possession of a firearm;
Zackory Phillips, felon in possession of a firearm;
Travis J. Pipes, heroin trafficking, possession of a firearm in furtherance of a drug-trafficking crime;
Dylan Pruett, felon in possession of a firearm;
Chase M. Murphy, armed robbery conspiracy, armed robbery, brandishing firearms during a crime of violence.

Previously reported federal defendants:

Monty Ray, unlawful drug user in possession of a firearm;
Steven Younce, felon in possession of a firearm, meth trafficking, possessing firearms in furtherance of a drug-trafficking crime;
Daniel Briscoe, methamphetamine trafficking, heroin trafficking;
Leamandreal Dorsey, felon in possession of a firearm;
Shannon Walz, felon in possession of a firearm, felon in possession of ammunition;
Maricela Lozano, carjacking, using a firearm during a crime of violence;
Gary Dorch, felon in possession of a firearm;
Patricia Nelson, felon in possession of a firearm;
Bobby Lynn King, felon in possession of a firearm;
Logan Tanner Laws, unlawful drug user in possession of a firearm;
Michael Glen Zeigers, felon in possession of a firearm;
Nelson, King, Laws, and Zeigers are co-defendants also charged with conspiracy to distribute methamphetamine, money laundering, and possessing firearms in furtherance of a drug-trafficking crime.

Operation LeGend

Operation LeGend is a federal partnership with local law enforcement to address the increase in homicides and violent crime in Kansas City, Mo., in 2020. The operation honors the memory of four-year-old LeGend Taliferro, one of the youngest fatalities during a record-breaking year of homicides and shootings. Additional federal agents were assigned to the operation from the FBI, Drug Enforcement Administration, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, and the U.S. Marshals Service.



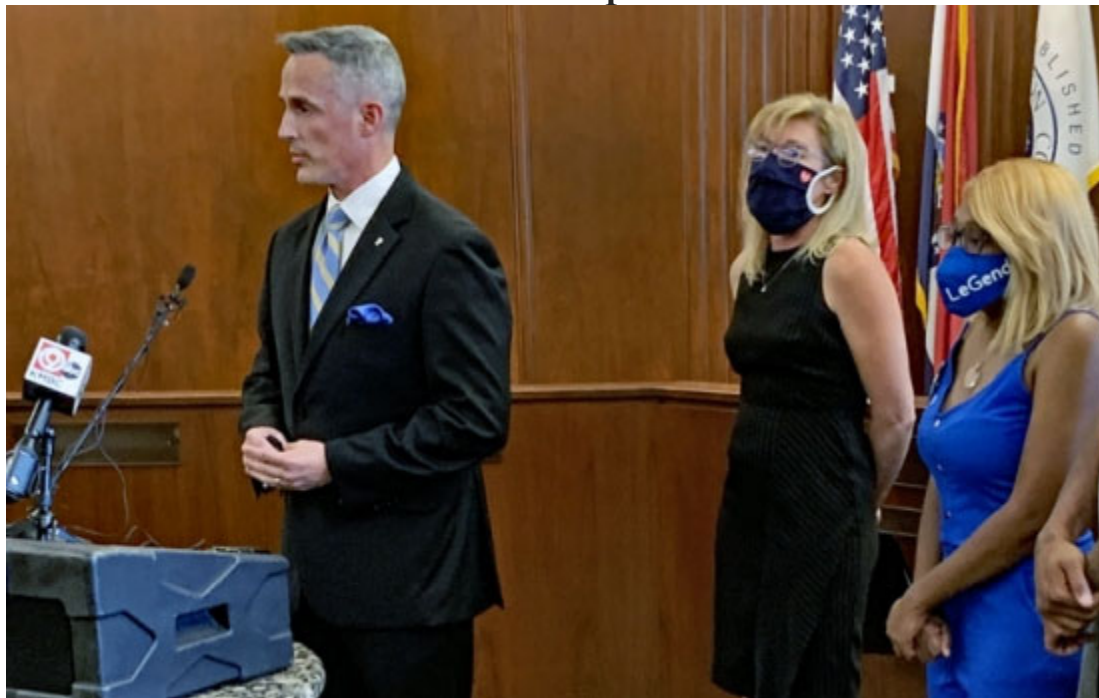
A group of local pastors met with U.S. Attorney Tim Garrison this week at United Believers Community Church to discuss Operation LeGend.

Department of Justice
U.S. Attorney's Office
Western District of Missouri

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Thursday, August 13, 2020

Statement from U.S. Attorney Tim Garrison

Operation LeGend



U.S. Attorney Tim Garrison participated in a press conference today with Jackson County Prosecutor Jean Peters Baker (center) and Charron Powell, the mother of LeGend Taliferro, to announce state charges in the fatal shooting of LeGend.

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – U.S. Attorney Tim Garrison participated in today's press conference with Jackson County Prosecutor Jean Peters Baker to announce state charges against Ryson Ellis in the fatal shooting of 4-year-old Legend M. Taliferro, who was asleep at home the morning of June 29, 2020, when a shot was fired into his residence and struck him.

"We are all pleased that we're now a step closer to finding justice for the tragic murder of LeGend Taliferro," Garrison said. "This case underscores the effectiveness of state, local, and federal law enforcement working together to reduce violent crime in Kansas City. Operation LeGend has resulted in significant numbers of arrests and seizures of dozens of firearms and illegal drugs. Today's arrest is one of 16 homicide-related arrests under Operation LeGend.

"The alleged killer of LeGend Taliferro is in custody, but there are still too many armed and violent criminals roaming the streets of Kansas City. Operation LeGend will continue to provide federal support to assist our local law enforcement partners so that more criminals will be taken off the street, more victims will receive justice, and our neighborhoods will be more safe."

Operation LeGend

Operation LeGend is a federal partnership with local law enforcement to address the increase in homicides and violent crime in Kansas City, Mo., in 2020. The operation honors the memory of four-year-old LeGend Taliferro, one of the youngest fatalities during a record-breaking year of homicides and shootings. Additional federal agents were assigned to the operation from the FBI, Drug Enforcement Administration, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, and the U.S. Marshals Service.

Department of Justice
U.S. Attorney's Office
Western District of Missouri

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Friday, August 21, 2020

Operation LeGend Results in 288 Arrests, Including 24 Murder Suspects

Operation LeGend

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – U.S. Attorney Tim Garrison announced today that 288 arrests have been made by local and federal law enforcement officers in Operation LeGend.

Among those arrested since the launch of the operation, 61 are federal defendants. Among the remaining 227 arrests, 24 were homicide cases and 72 were fugitives with either state or federal warrants for their arrest. The remaining 131 non-fugitive arrests were referred for prosecution in state court.

In addition to the arrests, agents and officers have seized 89 firearms during Operation LeGend.

The U.S. Attorney's Office is not able to track cases that are referred for prosecution in state court. In addition to the arrests of federal defendants charged in other districts, or who were arrested for violating their supervised release, the following 38 defendants have been charged in federal court in the Western District of Missouri:

Edward Latimore, felon in possession of a firearm;
G'aunte Butler, drug user in possession of a firearm;
Chase Lewis, drug user in possession of a firearm;
Romeny Aubrey, felon in possession of a firearm;
Robert Jordan, felon in possession of a firearm;
Harun Rimson, felon in possession of a firearm;
Anthony Meneses, felon in possession of a firearm;
Lance Saenz, felon in possession of a firearm;
Scott Yount, drug trafficking;
Crystal Smith, drug trafficking;
Aurora Page, felon in possession of a firearm;
Crystell Smith, drug trafficking;
Devonte Bowman, arson;
Jamahl Jones, felon in possession of a firearm;
Michael Moore, felon in possession of a firearm;
Tylor Lack, felon in possession of a firearm;
Dominic McDaniel, felon in possession of a firearm;
Cameron Smith, felon in possession of a firearm;
Charles Bai, felon in possession of a firearm, drug trafficking;
Federico Yanez-Saldivar, felon in possession of a firearm, drug trafficking;
Manuel Vazques, felon in possession of a firearm, drug trafficking.

Previously reported federal defendants:

Terrell L. Releford, felon in possession of a firearm;
Dustin M. Jordan, felon in possession of a firearm;
Zackory Phillips, felon in possession of a firearm;
Travis J. Pipes, heroin trafficking, possession of a firearm in furtherance of a drug-trafficking crime;
Dylan Pruett, felon in possession of a firearm;
Chase M. Murphy, armed robbery conspiracy, armed robbery, brandishing firearms during a crime of violence.
Monty Ray, unlawful drug user in possession of a firearm;
Steven Younce, felon in possession of a firearm, meth trafficking, possessing firearms in furtherance of a drug-trafficking crime;

Daniel Briscoe, methamphetamine trafficking, heroin trafficking;
Leamandreal Dorsey, felon in possession of a firearm;
Shannon Walz, felon in possession of a firearm, felon in possession of ammunition;
Maricela Lozano, carjacking, using a firearm during a crime of violence;
Gary Dorch, felon in possession of a firearm;
Patricia Nelson, felon in possession of a firearm;
Bobby Lynn King, felon in possession of a firearm;
Logan Tanner Laws, unlawful drug user in possession of a firearm;
Michael Glen Zeigers, felon in possession of a firearm;
Nelson, King, Laws, and Zeigers are co-defendants also charged with conspiracy to distribute methamphetamine, money laundering, and possessing firearms in furtherance of a drug-trafficking crime.

Operation LeGend

Operation LeGend is a federal partnership with local law enforcement to address the increase in homicides and violent crime in Kansas City, Mo., in 2020. The operation honors the memory of four-year-old LeGend Taliferro, one of the youngest fatalities during a record-breaking year of homicides and shootings. Additional federal agents were assigned to the operation from the FBI, Drug Enforcement Administration, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, and the U.S. Marshals Service.

Department of Justice
U.S. Attorney's Office
Western District of Missouri

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Thursday, September 10, 2020

KC Man Charged with Drug Trafficking, Illegal Firearms

Operation LeGend

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – A Kansas City, Missouri, man has been charged in federal court with drug trafficking and illegally possessing firearms after law enforcement officers found firearms and large quantities of illegal drugs in his vehicle at the Argosy Casino.

Dominick A. Campos, 40, was charged in a two-count complaint filed in the U.S. District Court in Kansas City, Mo., on Wednesday, Sept. 9.

The federal criminal complaint charges Campos with one count of possessing methamphetamine with the intent to distribute and one count of possessing firearms in furtherance of drug trafficking.

According to an affidavit filed in support of the federal criminal complaint, law enforcement identified Campos during an investigation into drug sales in the Kansas City metropolitan area. Campos was arrested at the Argosy Casino on Tuesday, Sept. 8.

Following his arrest, Campos told officers he had been selling approximately one kilogram of methamphetamine each week since April 2020. When officers searched Campos's car, they found a Zastava Serbian AK-47-style 7.62x39mm rifle, a Hi-Point .45-caliber semi-automatic handgun, nearly 4.5 kilograms of methamphetamine, approximately 3.7 kilograms of marijuana, 276 grams of suspected psilocybin mushrooms, 294 1100mg THC cartridges of LA Kush, 385 grams of suspected marijuana wax, 65 500mg THC edibles, 735 suspected acetaminophen/hydrocodone pills, 52 unknown pills, two notebooks that contained records of suspected drug transactions, drug paraphernalia, and \$40,240.

The charges contained in this complaint 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 Assistant U.S. Attorney Robert M. Smith. It was investigated by the Lee's Summit, Mo., Police Department, the Jackson County Drug Task Force, and the FBI.

Operation LeGend

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Department of Justice
U.S. Attorney's Office
Western District of Missouri

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Monday, September 28, 2020

Operation LeGend Results in Over 500 Arrests, Including 37 Murder Suspects

Officers Seized 176 Firearms

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – U.S. Attorney Tim Garrison, at a joint press conference with Kansas City Mayor Quinton Lucas and Kansas City Police Chief Rick Smith, announced today that 518 arrests have been made by local and federal law enforcement officers in Operation LeGend.

“On behalf of the team of federal law enforcement agencies involved in this groundbreaking initiative, I made certain promises when Operation LeGend was launched,” Garrison said. “Those promises have been kept. The FBI, the ATF, the DEA, and the U.S. Marshals Service worked collaboratively and effectively with the Kansas City Police Department and other local law enforcement agencies to accomplish the objectives of Operation LeGend. We created a model for others to follow. Our success in Kansas City is now being duplicated in eight more cities across the nation.”

Promises Made, Promises Kept

“We promised that Operation LeGend would be a short-term, high-impact strategy to freeze the escalation of violent crime and respond to the record number of homicides in Kansas City this year,” Garrison said. “That promise was kept. Operation LeGend has had a significant impact on violent crime in Kansas City, and those efforts will continue.”

During the 10 weeks from the announcement of Operation LeGend on July 8 through Sept. 16, homicides in Kansas City were down 22 percent, non-fatal shootings were down 24 percent, and aggravated assaults were down 44 percent, as compared to the 10 weeks before July 8.

“We promised that federal agents would work alongside local law enforcement, in a supportive role to provide additional support and assistance,” Garrison said. “That promise was kept, and in the process, valuable lessons were gained for how to confront violent crime.”

For example, the FBI has doubled the number of agents working violent crime cases and embedded agents with the Kansas City Police Department's violent crime unit. The ATF has added a new unit that is permanently embedded with Kansas City's assault squad. Intelligence has been gained and shared among law enforcement agencies to improve future investigations. “These strategies for collaborating with local law enforcement have been successful, and will continue,” Garrison said.

“We promised there would be no storm troopers patrolling the streets of Kansas City, no interference with the civil rights of protesters engaged in public demonstrations,” Garrison said. “Despite accusations of a federal occupation, we have worked cooperatively with both local law enforcement and local community leaders. None of those dire predictions from our critics came to pass.”

“I've also said, from the start of Operation LeGend, that law enforcement would not be the sole solution to violent crime,” Garrison added. “Violence is a community issue, and requires a community-wide response.”

“I hope that by keeping the promises we made, by doing what we said we would do, we've established a level of trust and credibility that will continue to bear fruit,” Garrison said.

Among those arrested since the launch of Operation LeGend, 126 are federal defendants in the Western District of Missouri (with additional federal cases referred to U.S. Attorney's Offices in Kansas and Texas). Among the

remaining arrests, 37 were homicide cases. In addition to the arrests, agents and officers have seized 176 firearms, large quantities of illegal drugs, and several stolen vehicles during Operation LeGend.

Among the homicide arrests made under Operation LeGend was the defendant charged in state court with murder of 4-year-old LeGend Taliferro, in whose memory the operation was named.

The U.S. Attorney's Office does not track cases that are referred for prosecution in state court or in other districts. Defendants have been charged in the Western District of Missouri with the following federal crimes:

- 70 defendants have been charged with firearms-related offenses;
- 45 defendants have been charged with drug trafficking offenses;
- 11 defendants have been charged with other violent crimes.

Operation LeGend

Operation LeGend is a federal partnership with local law enforcement to address the increase in homicides and violent crime in Kansas City, Mo., in 2020. The operation honors the memory of four-year-old LeGend Taliferro, one of the youngest fatalities during a record-breaking year of homicides and shootings. Additional federal agents were assigned to the operation from the FBI, Drug Enforcement Administration, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, and the U.S. Marshals Service.

JACKSON COUNTY DRUG TASK FORCE COMMITMENT

Jackson County is a primary market area for production, distribution and abuse of dangerous drugs. Although progress has been made in many areas, continued vigilance, enforcement, treatment and education is required. The Jackson County Drug Task Force will continue its successful tradition through community partnerships and a united cooperative effort against illegal narcotics.

Although limited by financial and personnel constraints, the Jackson County Drug Task Force will continue to provide the citizens of these communities the professional service that they have come to deserve and expect. The members of this Task Force have made a commitment to this office, the law enforcement profession and the citizens of this community that no information concerning the illegal sales of narcotics will go without proper investigation. With that in mind, we will strive to continue to improve on the quality of service to this community.

The Jackson County Drug Task Force actively solicits tips and information regarding all illegal narcotics activity. Should the information be related to a jurisdiction outside of Jackson County, personnel from this office will assure that the information is passed on to the proper investigative agency. Individuals having information to pass on may contact this office through phone in complaints at 816-655-DRUG, via the Jackson County, Missouri Web Site, jacksongov.org, or through the TIPS hotline, 816- 474-TIPS.