



NEWS RELEASE

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Man Sentenced to Life Without Parole in 2006 Halloween Party Murder

Corey Wagner (DOB 07/06/1978) was sentenced today to life in prison without parole in the shooting death of 26-year-old Anthony Montoya in 2006 at a Halloween party in Thornton.

Wagner shot Montoya, 26, in the back at the party at 9200 Aspen St., in Thornton, when Wagner returned to the party with a gun after he and some friends were forced to leave because of an altercation.

Wagner was convicted last week of first-degree felony murder, second-degree murder, burglary, second-degree assault and menacing.

Adams County District Judge Thomas Ensor also sentenced Wagner to six years in prison for second-degree assault against Jack Wright, who was pistol-whipped with the gun prior to the shooting. Wagner previously was sentenced to six years in prison for second-degree assault against Desiree Dana, whose jaw was fractured when Wagner punched her in the face. Those sentences, totaling 12 years, are consecutive to the life sentence for murder.

Wagner was initially convicted of the charges in 2008. The conviction was reversed on appeal because of an error in a jury instruction.

"We are proud of the work of the Office of the District Attorney and the Thornton Police Department for their continued pursuit of justice in this case," said Assistant District Attorney Jess Redman. "These crimes were a horrible tragedy that still impacts the families of the victims and the many young men and women that attended the Halloween party that night. Our hearts go out to them and especially to the family of Anthony Montoya."

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