



NEWS RELEASE

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Public Information
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Teen Charged as Adult Pleads Guilty to Second-Degree Murder

Matthew James Trujillo, DOB 09/04/96, pleaded guilty today to second-degree murder (F2) in the stabbing death of Anthony Benavidez, 18, on January 4, 2014.

According to court records, Trujillo challenged Benavidez to a fight after becoming angry about Benavidez having contact with his sister and his girlfriend. The two met in a park near the 4200 block of East 100th Avenue. Trujillo was wearing metallic knuckles with a built-in blade and stabbed Benavidez in the throat. He died in the arms of his mother, who had gone to the park looking for him and saw the stabbing.

Trujillo was charged as an adult with first-degree murder (F1). Under the plea agreement, he faces a stipulated sentence of from 16 to 48 years in prison.

His sentencing hearing is set for 8:30 a.m. on March 12 in Division F of Adams County District Court.

Trujillo's father, Brian Carl Trujillo (DOB 05/13/74) also is charged with contributing to the delinquency of a minor (F4), tampering with physical evidence (F4) and accessory to crime (F5). He is set for arraignment at 8:30 a.m. Feb. 4 in Division F.

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