



**NEWS RELEASE**

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Contact: Sue Lindsay  
Public Information  
303-835-5639

**Man Who Stole Police Cruiser and Assaulted Deputies Sentenced to 10 Years**

Bernard Jesse Martinez (DOB 09/11/82), who stole a deputy sheriff's vehicle and led authorities on a high speed chase last April, was sentenced to 10 years in prison Thursday for assault on a peace officer and aggravated motor vehicle theft.

Martinez took off in a deputy's vehicle after deputies were called to a disturbance at West 67th Avenue and Knox Court in unincorporated Adams County on April 28. According to the arrest affidavit, Martinez was in the middle of the street waving his arms, flagging down the deputy. He then began to hit the hood of the patrol car, was acting erratically and told the deputy that he needed to "get out of here."

Martinez began struggling with the deputy as he attempted to take him into custody. Then he jumped into the patrol car and took off, leading officers on a high speed chase that reached 100 miles per hour on Sheridan Boulevard.

Martinez was arrested after an unmarked Colorado State Patrol car T-boned him in the intersection of 72nd Avenue and Pecos Street after Martinez sped through the intersection, running a red light, and then executed a U-Turn. Martinez also fought with deputies at the jail.

Martinez pleaded guilty January 13 to one count of attempted aggravated robbery (F4) and two counts of second-degree assault against a peace officer (F4). The plea agreement called for a stipulated sentence of from 5 to 10 years in prison. Adams County District Judge Katherine Delgado sentenced him to the maximum 10 years in prison.

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