



NEWS RELEASE

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Man Sentenced to 18 Years in High Speed Collision that Injured Four Teens

Frederick Veloz Jr., was sentenced to 18 years in prison Thursday in a violent high speed collision in Thornton last July that sent four teenagers to the hospital fighting for their lives.

“Frederick Veloz was literally every parent’s nightmare,” said Chief District Attorney Brian Mason at the sentencing hearing. “He was high on meth, drunk on alcohol and, behind the wheel of his black truck, a blazing, out-of-control weapon of death.”

Veloz (DOB 10/24/83) was eluding police and speeding at 70 to 80 mph the wrong way down Washington Avenue near 120th Avenue in Thornton on July 26, 2016 when he slammed into a Chevrolet Impala carrying the four teenagers. Veloz fled on foot and was arrested by Thornton police.

One of the teens suffered a broken femur, compound fracture of her arm, broken jaw, shattered elbow, skull fracture and brain hemorrhage. Another suffered a severe traumatic brain injury that he still is struggling to overcome.

“It is a miracle that those teenagers survived,” Mason said. “The defendant is lucky that he is not being sentenced today for quadruple vehicular homicide.”

Veloz pleaded guilty as charged to 18 charges including multiple counts of vehicular eluding resulting in bodily injury, leaving the scene of an accident involving serious bodily injury, vehicular assault while driving under the influence, DUI and reckless vehicular assault.

“What you did was the equivalent of a drive-by shooting with a 3,000 pound bullet,” Adams County District Judge Ted Tow said. “I can’t overstate the devastation you rained on these four families.”

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