



NEWS RELEASE

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Public Information

303-835-5639

Man Charged with Attempted First-degree Murder for Hitting Man with his Car

17th Judicial District Attorney Dave Young announced Thursday that two counts of attempted first-degree murder have been filed against Justin Tafoya.

Tafoya (DOB 03/20/95) tried to hit one man with his vehicle and struck another man, seriously injuring him, after a verbal confrontation at a Thornton convenience store on May 27. Ryan Belearde, 21, suffered a traumatic brain injury and multiple fractures and internal injuries when Tafoya hit him with the Honda Accord he was driving. The incident took place on West 88th Avenue near Conifer Road in Thornton.

Tafoya is charged with two counts of attempted first-degree murder (F2).

Anyone with information on the whereabouts of Tafoya is asked to call the Thornton Police Tip line at 720-977-5069, or you can submit anonymous tips by calling Metro Denver Crime Stoppers at 720-913-STOP (7867) or by using the Metro Denver Crime Stoppers mobile app. All tipsters remain anonymous and are eligible for an award of up to \$2,000.

The Metro Denver Crime Stoppers mobile app is immediately available as a free download on the App Store for Apple devices, on Google Play for Android devices and on the BlackBerry App World for select BlackBerry devices. To learn more about Crime Stoppers visit the website at <http://metrodenvercrimestoppers.com/>.

The filing of a criminal charge is merely a formal accusation that an individual committed a crime under Colorado laws. A defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty.

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