



## **NEWS RELEASE**

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### **Man Sentenced to 14 Years in Robberies of Marijuana Grow Businesses**

Rocky Howard Dean Pedersen was sentenced to 14 years in prison Tuesday for aggravated robbery in a string of armed robberies of marijuana grow businesses last year.

Pedersen (DOB 10/13/85) was charged with aggravated robbery or attempted robbery of five grow operations and a liquor store in Northglenn, Boulder and unincorporated Adams County between October 26, 2016 and February 6, 2017. He entered the stores wearing a mask and threatened store employees with an AR15 rifle or a pistol, demanding all their cash. More than \$19,000 was taken in the robberies.

In one of the robberies, at the Grow Depot at 970 W. 104<sup>th</sup> Avenue in Northglenn, Pedersen pointed a pistol at an employee, who had obtained a concealed carry permit because of Pedersen's previous robbery of the same store in October. The two exchanged gunfire and Pedersen was hit in the leg. He went to the hospital for treatment, leading to his arrest.

Pedersen owned a marijuana dispensary in Longmont until he was forced to close the business in 2012 when the city banned the businesses.

"Drugs were part of the issue, but it was more than that. He went into these businesses angry because he had lost his business and wanted revenge," Senior Deputy District Attorney Yvette Guthrie said at the sentencing hearing. "He terrorized these people. He entered their stores carrying an assault rifle, shoved it in their faces and told them to get on the floor."

His conviction pertains to these incidents:

- October 26, 2016 aggravated robbery at Grow Depot, 970 W. 104<sup>th</sup> Ave., Northglenn
- November 6, 2016 aggravated robbery at Way to Grow hydroponic supply store at 301 E. 57<sup>th</sup> Ave., Adams County
- December 10, 2016 aggravated robbery at Grow hydroponic supply store, 6395 Gunpark Drive, Boulder
- January 11, 2017 aggravated robbery at Won's Liquor store, 2021 E. 160<sup>th</sup> Ave., Adams County

- January 26, 2017 attempted aggravated robbery at Way to Grow hydroponic supply store, 301 E. 57<sup>th</sup> Ave., Adams County
- February 6, 2017 aggravated robbery at Grofax 5 Hydroponic Supply Center, 8868 Federal Blvd., Federal Heights
- February 28, 2017 shots fired at Grow Depot 970 W. 104<sup>TH</sup> Ave., Northglenn

He pleaded guilty on December 15 to two counts of aggravated robbery with a deadly weapon (F3) concerning all victims in the case. Pedersen said he was very sorry for what he did and blamed his actions on his addiction to opioids and heroin. He had no previous criminal record.

Adams County District Judge Sharon Holbrook sentenced Pedersen to 14 years in prison and ordered him to write a letter of apology to each of his victims. She also ordered that he undergo mental health and substance abuse evaluation and treatment before he is released on parole.

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