



NEWS RELEASE

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Man Sentenced to 7 Years in Assault on Police Officers

Jason Daniel Masek was sentenced to seven years in prison Tuesday for assaulting two police officers who were arresting him for using drugs at a Thornton library bathroom last July.

Thornton police were called to the Anythink Library at 9417 Huron Street on July 21 on a report of suspected drug use. Officers found Masek hiding in a bathroom stall. He punched and fought with officers who tried to arrest him and was able to flee, jumping over fences in backyards before he was arrested a few blocks away. Masek had a warrant for a parole violation at the time.

He pleaded guilty to second-degree assault of a police officer causing serious bodily injury to Officers Sean Shelley and Chris Wickersham and introduction of contraband while he was in jail. The defense said Masek was under the influence of drugs, including methamphetamine.

Deputy District Attorney Ashley Wiener said Masek poses a danger to the safety of the public unless he is incarcerated. She said he has a history of assaulting police officers, including a 2014 conviction in which he hit a police officer with a car.

Adams County District Judge Don Quick noted that this was Masek's fourth felony conviction and he had a history of revocations of probation, parole and community corrections sentences. Masek has a history of resistance to authority and drug abuse. "At this stage, when you take illicit drugs like methamphetamine, because of your mental health issues, the substances affect you in a more dramatic way," he told Masek.

Judge Quick sentenced Masek to 6 years in prison for second-degree assault plus one year for hiding a razor in a toilet and making a shank out of a light switch plate while he was in jail on this case.

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