



**NEWS RELEASE**

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**Marquis Brooks Sentenced to 5 Years in Russian Roulette Shooting Death**

Marquis Brooks was sentenced to five years in prison Tuesday for manslaughter in the slaying of 22-year-old Zachary Espinosa-Bivens during a game of Russian roulette last February in Westminster.

Espinosa-Bivens was shot in the head by Brooks (DOB 03/09/96) at an apartment in the Edgewood Apartments at 6980 Stuart Street in Westminster on February 22. Brooks had been drinking and using cocaine and Xanax, and was playing Russian roulette with his gun when he shot his friend, Espinosa-Bivens.

Witnesses said he had been talking about suicide that night before he brought out his gun and unloaded all but one bullet. He pointed it at his own head and said, "Let's see if this is my time," and pulled the trigger. The gun did not fire. He pointed it at Espinosa-Bivens' head and fired, killing him.

Deputy District Attorney Carmen Rickard told the court that Brooks fled the scene without trying to help his dying friend. "He didn't try to help him," she said. "He didn't call somebody who could try to help him. He left him to die by himself." Then Brooks drove off while drunk, putting other members of the public at risk, Rickard said.

Adams County District Judge Sharon Holbrook rejected the defense request for a probation sentence, noting that Brooks failed to meet the conditions of his supervised release by failing to show for some court-ordered urine screens and testing positive for alcohol.

Judge Holbrook sentenced him to five years in prison. Brooks had pleaded guilty to manslaughter (F4), possession of a controlled substance (DF4), and driving under the influence of drugs or alcohol.

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