



NEWS RELEASE

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Man Sentenced to 23 Years for Assault in Shootout with Police

Joshua Omar Garcia (DOB 04/14/87) was sentenced to 23 years in prison Friday for first-degree assault in a shootout with Aurora police that took place during a nine-hour standoff in 2017.

Officers responded to 1641 N. Pagosa Way in the Friendly Village mobile home park on July 5, 2017, after a man went to check on his son and was confronted by Garcia pointing a gun to his head. As officers were approaching, Garcia shot at Officer Chad Berger, striking a wooden railing and missing the officer. At that time members from multiple agencies, including Aurora Police, Aurora SWAT, Greenwood Village SWAT, Denver Police and bomb squad agents were called to the scene.

For roughly nine hours, officers attempted to convince Garcia to peacefully surrender. As tactical teams worked to remove him from the home, Garcia fired another shot at Aurora SWAT Officer Jeffery Jacobs, who was positioned behind a ballistic shield. Officer Jacobs was not struck. Eventually, officers breached entry into the home and removed Garcia with minimal injury.

Deputy District Attorney Troy Moyer asked for the maximum 32-year sentence under the plea agreement. "On July 5, 2017 the Defendant attempted to kill two police officers. He tried to kill two people for doing their job of protecting our community," Moyer said. He noted that Garcia's criminal history includes two prior felonies and a number of misdemeanors. "His crimes are escalating and the danger the Defendant presents to the public has only increased," Moyer said.

Adams County District Judge Priscilla Loew sentenced Garcia to 23 years in prison.