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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: May 20, 2016
Contact: Terasina White • twhite@co.weld.co.us • 970.356.4010
Re: Jury Finds Man Guilty of Attempted First Degree Murder on a Peace Officer

Greeley, CO - On Friday May 13, 2016, after approximately 6 hours of deliberations, Hugo Garza (d.o.b. 8/13/84) was found guilty of Attempted 1st Degree Murder on a Peace Officer, a class two felony; Attempted First Degree Murder, a class 2 felony; Menacing a class 5 felony; Attempted Manslaughter, a class 5 felony; Disorderly Conduct, a class 2 misdemeanor; Prohibited Use of a Weapon, a class 3 misdemeanor and Reckless Endangerment, a class 2 misdemeanor. The defendant previously plead guilty to Possession of a Weapon By a Previous Offender on this case.

These crimes were committed the morning of January 30, 2015, in the City of Evans. The case arose out of a dispute Garza was having with a female friend who was standing near his vehicle. As the argument escalated Garza retrieved a handgun from the backseat and fired a shot into the roof of his Ford Ranger, and then shortly thereafter fired a shot directly at the female. As the female victim ran away, Garza fired multiple shots in the vicinity of a male who had been approaching the truck to assist the female victim. Several minutes later, Garza fired at Sgt. Pete Bratton of the Evans Police Department as he responded to the area. Garza's shots narrowly missed each of the three victims.

The case was prosecuted by Chief Deputy District Attorney Steve Wrenn and Deputy District Attorney Tate Costin. Garza will be sentenced in Division 11 on June 16, 2016 at 3:00pm. He face up to a maximum sentence of 108 years.

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The filing of a criminal charge is merely a formal accusation that an individual(s) committed a crime(s) under Colorado laws. A defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty. See Colo. RPC 3.6