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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: July 8, 2016
Contact: Terasina White • twhite@co.weld.co.us • 970.400-4729
Re: Greeley Man Sentenced to 80 Years on Attempted First Degree Murder of a Police Officer

Greeley, CO – On Thursday July 7th, the Honorable Judge Marcelo Kopcow sentenced Hugo Garza (d.o.b. 8/13/84) to 80 years in the Department of Corrections following his conviction at trial. The defendant was found guilty on Friday May 13, 2016 by a Weld County jury 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 had 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 .44 Magnum 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.

During the sentencing hearing, Chief Deputy Steve Wrenn argued for a very lengthy prison sentence, noting "the victims and the community should have a degree of certainty that they will never see this defendant on the streets again." In commending the law enforcement response, Wrenn stated "these officers showed incredible restraint. Not a single shot was fired by officers, but rather they acted to save the defendant's life. That cannot be overlooked."

The District Attorney's Office was represented by Wrenn and Deputy District Attorney Tate Costin.

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