



OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY  
TWENTIETH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Michael T. Dougherty, District Attorney

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## Press Release

The District Attorney's Office announced today that Jesus Hilario Rodela entered guilty pleas and was sentenced for his actions on January 13, 2022. The incident took place in the area of Longs Peak Avenue and Baker Street in Longmont.

Officers with the Longmont Police Department had responded to the location of a stolen vehicle and attempted to contact Mr. Rodela and other individuals. School Resource Officer (SRO) Chris Borchowiec moved to protect Columbine Elementary School and encountered Mr. Rodela. SRO Borchowiec attempted to cut off Mr. Rodela's escape route using his marked police vehicle. Mr. Rodela opened fire on SRO Borchowiec, shooting three times. SRO Borchowiec placed his vehicle into park and dove out onto the ground to take cover from the gunfire.

The next law enforcement officer to encounter Mr. Rodela was SRO Sergeant Garcia. When he saw Mr. Rodela, SRO Sergeant Garcia activated his emergency lights. In response, Mr. Rodela raised the gun at him and fired. SRO Sergeant Garcia accelerated to strike Mr. Rodela with his police vehicle. Officers recovered Mr. Rodela's handgun from the scene. Furthermore, projectiles were recovered from the police vehicles of SRO Borchowiec and SRO Sergeant Garcia.

It was later learned that Mr. Rodela was on parole stemming from a sentence in Weld County case 2015CR466. He absconded from parole in September of 2021. Additionally, Mr. Rodela was the subject of two active arrest warrants that had identified him as the suspect in multiple cases involving felony aggravated motor vehicle theft charges.

The trial was scheduled to start today. Instead on going to trial, Mr. Rodela decided to accept responsibility and entered guilty pleas to two counts of First Degree Assault on a Peace Officer (F3). Per the plea agreement, the Court sentenced the defendant to sixty (60) years in state prison. The Longmont Police Department and the involved officers were involved throughout the process, including at today's hearing, and strongly supported this outcome.

Deputy District Attorneys McKenna Mayfield and Joshua Lisk stated, "We just want to thank the victims' for their cooperation and patience through the long court process."

District Attorney Michael Dougherty stated, “The victim officers had responded quickly and courageously to protect community members in Longmont. They faced direct gunfire from this defendant. The defendant put their lives, and the lives of community members, at serious risk. This lengthy sentence is the right outcome, based on his dangerous and violent conduct as well as his criminal history. I appreciate the work of the Longmont Police Department and the prosecution team in securing this sentence.”