



OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY
TWENTIETH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

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For Immediate Release
August 16, 2023

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Press Release

Charges Filed in Flagstaff and Coffman Street Shootings Increase in Gun Violence by Young Adults & Juveniles

Indictments charging Jafet Hernandez-Gonzalez, 21 years old, and a 17-year-old individual for the shooting that injured two victims and endangered others on Flagstaff May 12, 2023, have been unsealed. The defendants are brothers.

On the night of May 12, 2023, a group of young adults left a graduation party in a Cadillac Escalade and traveled to Flagstaff Mountain. The Escalade crashed on Flagstaff and was no longer drivable. A second group, in a car driven by defendant Jafet Hernandez-Gonzalez, arrived to provide assistance. A verbal confrontation between the driver of the Escalade and Jafet Hernandez-Gonzalez ensued.

After driving off, Jafet Hernandez-Gonzalez obtained a gun from his brother and the two returned to Flagstaff Mountain. By this point, additional people had arrived to assist the individuals in the Escalade. The juvenile drove by the group twice. As the juvenile drove by the group a third time, he slowed down and Jafet Hernandez-Gonzalez fired multiple rounds at the group. The driver of the Escalade and one additional victim were shot. Both gunshot victims survived their injuries.

The District Attorney's Office presented the shooting investigation to the Grand Jury. The Grand Jury returned an indictment charging Jafet Hernandez-Gonzalez and the 17-year-old person.

The Grand Jury indictments allege criminal attempt to commit first degree murder-after deliberation as to the driver of the Escalade. Attempted first degree murder - extreme indifference counts are charged for the members of the group who were in danger of being struck.

Jafet Hernandez-Gonzalez is set for arraignment on October 9, 2023 at 8:15 a.m. The 17-year-old is set for a bond hearing on August 25, 2023 at 8:15 a.m., and reverse transfer hearing the week of January 29, 2024. Given the premeditated nature of the shooting and the people shot, the District Attorney has charged the 17-year-old as an adult (18 years of age is the statutory age of adulthood for prosecution). At the reverse transfer hearing, the Judge will determine if the 17-year-old individual's case remains as an adult prosecution.

Last week, the Longmont Police Department arrested juveniles in connection with a shooting incident on July 23rd on South Coffman. A fifteen-year-old and seventeen-year-old were arrested for multiple counts of Attempted Murder after firing more than a dozen shots at a vehicle in the residential neighborhood. Although no one was hit, bullets struck the target vehicle and houses in the area. The fifteen-year-old is set for a status conference on September 8, 2023 at 9:00 p.m. The seventeen-year-old is set for filing of charges on August 17, 2023 at 8:15 a.m. **The alleged shooters remain in custody.**

These two cases are part of a disturbing trend of young people having easy access to firearms and engaging in shootings which, at times, have been deadly.

- Yahir Solis, 20 years old, is charged with First Degree Murder for an August 20, 2022, shooting in Kensington Park. It is set for trial on September 25, 2023. **That defendant remains in custody.**
- Christian Mendoza, 16 years old, is charged with Murder in the First Degree for the March 24, 2023 shooting in the Longmont Hobby Lobby parking lot. **He, also, remains in custody.** The case is set for a transfer hearing on January 16, 2024 for the Court to determine if he should be prosecuted as an adult.
- Martin Valles Rojo, 20 years old, had fired multiple gun shots at a moving car and shot a passenger in the elbow. On August 15th, the defendant pled guilty to Assault 1 and Attempted Murder 2. He will receive a state prison sentence between 16 - 25 years. Sentencing is scheduled for September 27th at 1:30 p.m.

DA Michael Dougherty stated, "As this most recent indictment demonstrates, our office continues to work closely with law enforcement to ensure that violent offenders are brought to justice. Tragically, young people are getting their hands on guns all too easily and putting them to terrible use against others -- and with serious consequences for their own lives. Efforts to interrupt this disturbing violence must continue at every level. Until that happens, we will continue to see lives forever altered by gang and gun violence."

As in every criminal case, these charges are merely an accusation and the defendants are presumed innocent unless or until proven guilty.