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Contact: Linda Jensen
Public Information Officer
jensenlk@co.larimer.co.us
(970) 498-7206



Larry R. Abrahamson
District Attorney
Larimer & Jackson Counties

NARDELLO SENTENCED TO 108 YEARS IN POLICE SHOOTING

Andrew Charles Nardello (DOB: 04/02/86) pled guilty on June 10, 2011 to two counts of attempted first degree murder of a peace officer and one count of first degree burglary. He was sentenced to 108 years in the Colorado Department of Corrections on July 25, 2011.

On December 25, 2009, Sergeant Zeigler and Officer Heaton of Fort Collins Police Services were dispatched to a residence after two roommates arrived home to find large footprints in the snow leading up to the front door and garage at 2430 West Stuart Street in Fort Collins. They reported that their roommate's ex-boyfriend had been stalking her and that there was a restraining order in place. They also reported that their roommate's bedroom door was closed and locked which was not normal giving consent to the officers to force entry. Prior to kicking in the door, officers announced "Fort Collins Police" several times. Officer Heaton entered the room first, at which time Sergeant Zeigler heard shots and returned fire. Officer Heaton was shot three times by Nardello and Andrew Nardello was shot once in the gunfire. Nardello had hid in the victim's room awaiting her return carrying a backpack containing weapons, ammunition, duct tape, a stun gun and handcuffs.

In a standing-room only courtroom filled with family and friends of the victim and Fort Collins Police officers, the victim tearfully spoke of months of stalking by Nardello and fear that she would never be safe if he were free. The victim's mother and roommate addressed the court praising the heroic acts of law enforcement. Sergeant Zeigler and Officer Heaton spoke of the life altering events of that evening. After thirteen months of recuperation, Officer Heaton was able to return to full duty.

In sentencing Andrew Nardello to 108 years, Judge Gregory Lammons followed the recommendations of Deputy District Attorney David Vandenberg in making the sentence on each count consecutive. Judge Lammons made it clear that he believes that had it not been for intervention by the victim's roommates and the actions of both Sergeant Zeigler and Officer Heaton that evening, the victim would not be alive.

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