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NEWS RELEASE

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GOMEZ-GARCIA SENTENCED TO THE MAX

The man who murdered a Denver police officer and wounded another in May 2005 has been sentenced to a maximum of 80 years in prison today following an emotional morning in Denver District Court.

Raul Gomez-Garcia (DOB: 05-27-85), who was convicted earlier of second-degree murder in the death of Donnie Young and attempted second-degree murder in the wounding of Jack Bishop, was sentenced to 48 years and 32 years in prison, respectively, to be served consecutively.

Gomez-Garcia, who waived his right to be present at the hearing, was not in the courtroom. Denver District Court Judge Larry Naves heard emotional statements from Detective Bishop, Kelly Young, and Donnie Young's sister, Roberta Schuster. The judge also read a letter from one of Young's daughters. Chief Deputy DA Bruce Levin argued for the maximum prison sentence possible, noting that shooting at a police officer is an attack on the entire community.

Gomez-Garcia will be in the custody of the Department of Corrections at the Denver Reception and Diagnostic Center possibly for several weeks before he is placed in a DOC facility. According to the Department of Corrections, as he enters prison he would not be eligible for parole for at least 52 years. (That figure could change with earned-time calculations according to DOC.) The calculation is made based on a requirement that he serves 75-percent of the 48-year term, and 50-percent of the 32-year term. For more information about Department of Corrections information, contact Cheryl Ahmata at 719-226-4719.