



DenverDA

Mitchell R. Morrissey, District Attorney - Second Judicial District
201 W. Colfax Avenue, Dept. 801, Denver, CO 80202

Bus. Phone: 720-913-9000
Fax: 720-913-9035

NEWS RELEASE

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Contact: Lynn Kimbrough, 720-913-9025

MAN CHARGED WITH BREAKING INTO COP'S HOME

A man accused of breaking into the home of a Denver police officer last week has been formally charged.

Dustin Mertz (DOB: 05-22-88) is charged with *first-degree criminal trespass* (F5) and *second-degree assault* (F4). The formal charges were filed on November 2, 2006.

The charges allege that on October 29, 2006 at about 4 a.m., a stranger was discovered in the home of an off-duty police officer. The officer struggled with the man and used a shotgun with less-than-lethal ammunition to get the man out of his home. He was arrested nearby a few minutes later.

18-year-old Mertz has been released from custody on a \$20,000 bond and is scheduled to be formally advised of the charges on November 15, 2006 at 9:00 a.m. in Denver District Courtroom 12T.