



# DenverDA

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## ***NEWS RELEASE***

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### **CHARGES FILED AGAINST SEPARATE DEFENDANTS SHOT BY POLICE**

Denver District Attorney Mitch Morrissey has filed criminal charges today against **Ifioma Abiakam** (dob: 02-22-86), a woman who was attacking two people and was later shot by police. Abiakam was charged with attempted murder (F2), first-degree burglary (F3), felony menacing (F5), and criminal mischief (M3). The charges allege that Abiakim was trying to attack a man and woman with a knife on May 12, 2007 in the 1100 block of 29<sup>th</sup> Street. She is scheduled to be advised of the charges on May 21, 2007 at 9 a.m. in Denver County Court, room 12T.

Charges were filed earlier this week against **John Balestrieri** (dob: 07-23-59) who is accused of trying to attack Denver police officers with a knife on May 8, 2007. Balestrieri is charged with three counts of first-degree assault on a peace officer (F3) in connection with the incident that occurred at 25 E. 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue. He is scheduled to be advised of the charges on May 23, 2007 at 9 a.m. in Denver County Court, room 12T.

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The filing of a criminal charge is merely a formal accusation that an individual(s) committed a crime(s) under Colorado laws. A defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty. *See* Colo. RPC 3.6