



## ***NEWS RELEASE*** –

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### **MAN CONVICTED OF MURDER; TO BE SENTENCED FOR MURDER AND EARLIER CONVICTION FOR ASSAULT OF POLICE OFFICER; FACES PROSECUTION IN THREE MORE CASES**

A Denver District Court jury returned a verdict yesterday afternoon against a man in connection with a shooting in November 2015 that left one dead and several injured.

**Darius Ratcliff** (dob: 08-01-1996) was convicted after a four-day trial of one count of *first degree murder* (F1) and two counts of *attempted 1<sup>st</sup> degree murder* (F2). Three counts of *violent crime—use of a weapon*, sentence enhancers, were also proven. He is scheduled to be sentenced on December 22, 2017, at 1:30 p.m. in courtroom 4G.

In November 2015 Ratcliff opened fire on a group of individuals who were asked to leave a house party in the 100 block of S. Bannock Avenue, which he was attending. One man was killed and three others were injured in the shooting. At-large charges were filed July 21, 2016 (16CR20007), and Ratcliff was arrested July 31, 2016, in connection with an officer-involved shooting described below.

Ratcliff is also scheduled to be sentenced on December 22 for the June conviction of *first degree assault-peace officer* (F3) in connection with an officer-involved shooting. On July 31, 2016, in the 3300 block of N. Olive Street, Denver police officers attempted a traffic stop on a vehicle driven by Ratcliff which matched the description of a vehicle involved in a drive by shooting early that evening. Ratcliff eluded officers and fled the vehicle but was located nearby. Ratcliff fired shots at the police officers and one returned fire, striking Ratcliff in the abdomen. Charges in that case were filed August 10, 2016 (16CR04995).

Ratcliff is also charged with:

- Three counts of *burglary* (F2, F3, and F4), and one count of *criminal mischief* (F6) in connection with the alleged burglary of a marijuana dispensary on June 3, 2016, in the 4000 block of Jackson Street. Charges were filed August 3, 2016 (16CR04895).
- Four counts of *attempted murder* (F2), four counts *attempted first degree assault* (F4), four counts of *menacing* (F5), and one count of *illegal discharge of a firearm* (F5) in connection with an alleged shooting on September 27, 2015, in the 3300 block of N. Colorado Boulevard. Charges were filed August 9, 2016 (16CR048984).
- One count of *escape from pending felony* (F4) for allegedly fleeing from police as he was being escorted from the city jail into Denver Health Medical Center on September 23, 2016. He was captured moments later. Charges were filed September 28, 2016 (16CR06206).

A status conference for the three cases is also scheduled for December 22, 2017.