



NEWS RELEASE –

March 16, 2017

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MAN CONVICTED OF 2014 ATTACK ON POLICE OFFICER

A Denver District Court jury returned a guilty verdict yesterday in the September 2014 assault of a Denver police officer.

Stephen K. Hamper (dob: 10-09-1987) was found guilty after a 2-day trial of the charged counts *assault in the first degree—serious bodily injury/deadly weapon* (F3), *assault in the second degree-peace officer* (F4), *criminal attempt to disarm a peace officer* (F6), and *assault in the second degree-custody/peace officer* (F4). The jury found Hamper not guilty of one count of *assault in the first degree-threaten peace officer/gun* (F3).

In the late afternoon of September 6, 2014, Officer Aubree Thompson responded to reports of a man wandering into traffic and washing his clothes in a storm drain near the ramp from S. Downing Street to southbound I-25. As Officer Thompson attempted to secure both of Hamper's hands with handcuffs, per policy to assist him getting off the roadway and out of danger of cars getting on to the highway, Hamper turned around and hit her in the face with a closed fist, breaking loose from the officer and rushing toward her patrol car. However, he turned back and subsequently hit the officer several times in the face and body, knocking her to the ground. While she was on the ground, Hamper climbed on top of her and tried to grab her gun. Passersby who saw the attack stopped to help the officer and subdue the attacker. Additional officers arrived and obtained custody of Hamper. According to the police report of the attack, Hamper screamed at the officers, "If I would have gotten her gun, I would have killed her. You guys kill children and old ladies."

A habitual criminal determination and sentencing hearing is scheduled for June 2, 2017, at 1:30 p.m. in courtroom 5B.

The case was prosecuted by Deputy District Attorney Jason Kramer and Chief Deputy District Attorney Bonnie Benedetti.