



OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY  
COUNTY OF TULARE

Tim Ward, *District Attorney*

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**PRESS RELEASE**

6/9/17

**ATTEMPTED COP KILLER SENTENCED TO 47 YEARS IN PRISON**

Yesterday in Department 19 of the Tulare County Superior Court, South County Justice Center, Judge Antonio Reyes sentenced Mario Gomez, age 27, of Porterville, to 47 years and 8 months in state prison for the attempted murder of a Tulare County Sheriff's deputy.

On April 17, 2017, Gomez pleaded no contest to attempted murder of a peace officer with use of a firearm, assault on a peace officer with a firearm, evading a police officer, kidnapping, carjacking with use of a firearm, robbery with use of a firearm, and criminal threats. Each count is a felony. He also pleaded to misdemeanor counts of resisting multiple peace officers. Gomez also admitted possessing a prior strike for first-degree residential burglary from 2012.

In the late evening hours of November 12, 2014, in Terra Bella, an adult male was retrieving his phone from his car outside his home when Gomez, who he knew, approached him, pointed a gun at him, and told him to start driving. After a time, Gomez told the victim to get out of the car, robbed him of his cash and phone, and threatened to kill him if he reported the crimes.

A Tulare County Sheriff K-9 patrol unit was in the area and spotted the stolen vehicle after hearing reports. A pursuit ensued and reached speeds of 80 mph. The deputy noted that during the pursuit, objects would fly from the suspect car and hit the patrol car, including a beer bottle. When the deputy had closed the distance and was nearly bumper to bumper on the left side, he noticed Gomez point a gun at him through the driver's window. The deputy pulled back to the right side to avoid being shot. As the pursuit continued, Gomez shot at the deputy through the rear window, shattering it. The deputy began evasive actions to avoid the gunfire, but the patrol car fish-tailed and rolled upside down on Highway 65 near the Porterville Developmental Center.

Other deputies continued the pursuit as the deputy exited the patrol car and freed his trapped K-9 partner. The deputy was treated at a local hospital and released. Gomez eventually lost control of the stolen car and flipped it. Deputies approached and saw Gomez throw something out of the car, which was later found to be the gun. Gomez resisted arrest, but was subdued and placed in to custody. A blood sample from Gomez tested positive for marijuana and methamphetamine.

In addition to his sentence, Gomez was ordered to pay restitution in the amount of \$31, 346.11.

The case was prosecuted by Deputy District Attorney Jessica Weatherly of the Porterville Division and investigated by the Tulare County Sheriff's Department and the Porterville Police Department.

*Media inquiries can be directed to the Office of the District Attorney, County of Tulare  
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