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Castle Rock Bank Robber Sentenced to 22 years in Prison

Defendant fired weapon in bank before fleeing with cash

Castle Rock, CO –A Douglas County judge has sentenced 36-year-old Octavio Alan Rivas Morales to 22 years in the Department of Corrections, after a violent robbery at a downtown Castle Rock bank.

On September 10th, 2024, Rivas Morales entered the Independent Bank located at 501 N. Wilcox Street and demanded money. During the robbery, he brandished a gun and fired a round into the floor, terrorizing bank staff and customers, before leaving with approximately \$2,000 in cash.

One of the bank tellers recognized Rivas Morales, leading to his arrest the next day in Johnstown, Colorado.

Rivas Morales is from Mexico and has an extensive criminal record. Based on his criminal history, he has been previously deported and convicted of re-entry. He pled guilty to five counts of Aggravated Robbery as a Crime of Violence. At sentencing, the judge imposed the plea agreement's maximum 22-year prison sentence, citing the extreme danger posed to the victims and the community.

Chief Deputy District Attorney Colleen Greer praised both law enforcement and the court's decision. "This defendant demonstrated a complete lack of accountability and empathy for the lives he endangered," Greer said. "I applaud the judge for imposing a sentence that appropriately reflects the terror inflicted on the victims and honors the lasting trauma they were forced to endure."

Deputy DA Joe Ratner agreed, "No one should fear for their life while cashing a check or working behind a counter. Today's sentence sends a clear message that the fear and trauma suffered by these victims mattered, and they were heard."

Castle Rock Police Chief Jack Cauley singled out the hard work of his team and the partnership with the District Attorney's Office: "The professionalism, dedication, and attention to detail shown by our officers and detectives were outstanding," said Cauley. "Our strong partnership with the District Attorney's Office ensured justice was delivered swiftly and decisively."

District Attorney George Brauchler said the sentence underscores Douglas County's zero tolerance for violent crime. "Spoiler alert: bank robbery is still a crime. A serious one. An easy rule for would-be criminals to remember is, bring a gun into a public space + pull the trigger=decades in prison," said Brauchler. "This powerful sentence from Judge Klingensmith makes it clear that violent criminals who we aggressively prosecute will be held fully accountable by our courts. America didn't want him to begin with. Now he has two decades to think about his bad choices and realize that Douglas County is inhospitable to those who choose violence. "

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