

PRESS RELEASE

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MAN SENTENCED TO 36 MONTHS IN PRISON FOR ARMED ASSAULT IN WACONIA RESTAURANT

Carver County Attorney Mark Metz announced that on August 28, 2018, Carver County District Court Judge Janet Barke Cain sentenced David Lopez Flores, age 31, a Waconia resident, to a prison term of 36 months for pointing a handgun at a 27-year-old man in a Waconia restaurant on January 27, 2018. The 27-year-old victim was at the restaurant that evening to order a takeout meal. While waiting for his food, Flores, who was drinking beer at the bar, began talking to the victim. The conversation was friendly but then Flores asked the victim to go the bathroom with him. The victim refused. Flores then left the restaurant for a short period and returned. He approached the victim and put his arm around the victim's shoulders. He then jabbed a black handgun into the victim's side and demanded that the victim accompany him to the restroom. The victim grabbed the gun and tried to pull it away. The two men struggled for control of the gun while several patrons ate nearby. Eventually, the victim pulled the gun away from Flores who fled in his vehicle. The Carver County Sheriff's Office responded and recovered the handgun from the victim.

Investigators identified Flores from a partial license plate number and statements from witnesses at the scene. They executed a search warrant at Flores' residence and arrested him. Deputies recovered several bullets from Flores' closet that matched the caliber of the handgun recovered in the restaurant. Later forensic analysis matched DNA on the handgun to Flores. A 12 person jury found Flores guilty of assault in the second degree in a trial before Judge Cain in July of 2018. In sentencing Flores to prison on August 28, 2018, Judge Cain noted the seriousness of the offense and that Flores did not seem particularly amenable to a probationary sentence.

First Assistant Carver County Attorney David Hunt handled the jury trial. County Attorney Metz recognized the Carver County Sheriff's Office for its prompt work and thorough investigation, especially the work of Detective Chris Wagner.

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