

MEDIA ADVISORY



ARVADA POLICE DEPARTMENT

Colorado

**Arvada Police Department 8101
Ralston Rd.
Arvada, CO 80001**

**Contact: Detective David Snelling
Office: 720-898-6654
Cell: 303-435-4186 Dave-s@arvada.org**

SUSPECT IDENTIFICATION

In the early morning hours of September 11, 2022, around 1:41am, Arvada Police Officers were dispatched to a check well-being on two minor children. When officers arrived in the 6700 block of west 51st Avenue they encountered a large family disturbance. The officers arrived to a chaotic scene with multiple people in the street. When the officers tried to separate several belligerent and uncooperative individuals the suspect began to fire and shot a female victim. An exchange of gunfire then occurred between officers and the suspect. The suspect fired, striking an Arvada Police Officer, killing him.

The Arvada Police Department has identified the suspect in the shooting of an Arvada Police Officer. Late Sunday evening Sonny Thomas Almanza was arrested by the Arvada Police Department. An arrest warrant was requested and obtained for the following charges:

- C.R.S. 18-3-102(1)(d), Murder in the First Degree (Extreme Indifference)/C.R.S. 18-3-107, First Degree Murder of a Peace Officer F1
- C.R.S. 18-2-101, Criminal Attempt to Commit/ C.R.S. 18-3-102(1)(a) Murder in the First Degree (with Intent and Deliberation) F2
- C.R.S. 18-2-101, Criminal Attempt to Commit/ C.R.S. 18-3-102, Murder in the First Degree (Extreme Indifference) F2
- C.R.S. 18-12-108, Possession of a Weapon by a Previous Offender, F5
- C.R.S. 18-6-401(1)(a), Child Abuse (Knowingly) M2
- C.R.S. 18-6-401(7)(b)(I), Child Abuse (No Injury) M2
- C.R.S. 18-1.3-406(2)(a)(I)(A), Crime of Violence, (SE)
- C.R.S. 18-1.3-406(2)(a)(I)(B), Crime of Violence, (SE)

The suspect is currently in-custody at a local hospital and upon release will be transported to the Jefferson County Jail.

This is still an active ongoing investigation and we are limited in what we can release.



Sonny Thomas Almanza (DOB: 06-08-91)

