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## Jury Sentences Man to 45 Years in Prison for Vehicular Assault on FWPD Officers



Victor Ortiz Gonzalez of Fort Worth has been found guilty of two counts of Aggravated Assault of a Public Servant for endangering the lives of Fort Worth Police officers by ramming his H3 Hummer sport utility vehicle into a Fort Worth Police car during an attempted arrest. He was also found guilty of Evading Arrest with a Vehicle. Gonzalez was sentenced to 45 years in prison for the aggravated assault, and 20 years for evading arrest.

The incident began when Gonzalez stole a concrete saw and power washer from a police bait car, and GPS directed the officers to his location. He led officers on a short, but high speed chase through the Somerset Apartments, where he pulled into a dead end. As officers got out of the police car to approach Gonzalez's vehicle, Gonzalez threw his large SUV into reverse, crashing into the open door of the police car, pinning one officer between the door frame and the vehicle, injuring him. He also caused substantial damage to the police car.

After driving onto a pedestrian-only area in the complex, Gonzalez struck another car, exited his vehicle and fled on foot. He was later identified through fingerprints and a photo identification.

*"This jury made an important statement with their verdict. Actions that place our men and women in law enforcement in danger must be punished and punished harshly,"* said lead prosecutor Tim Rodgers.

*"Victor Gonzalez' actions showed a blatant disregard for the safety of the community, citizens, authority, and our laws,"* said prosecutor Jasmine Banks. *"The jury's verdict sends a message that this level of callousness will not be tolerated. "*

*"We are blessed in this country, and especially in this county, to have the law enforcement officers who protect us,"* said Criminal District Attorney Sharen Wilson. *"This jury's verdict expresses the gratitude our community feels for them."*

This trial was held in the 432<sup>nd</sup> District Court, presided over by Judge Ruben Gonzalez.

## END ##