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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Jose D. Chavez is sentenced on the Attempted Murder of an employee of Planet Fitness.

March 14, 2023 | Las Cruces- Jose Daniel Chavez, 29, who shot an employee of Planet Fitness plead guilty to Count 1: Attempt to Commit a Felony, First Degree Murder (Willful or Deliberate)-a Second Degree Felony and Tampering with Evidence, a third degree felony, Third Judicial District Attorney Gerald Byers announced.

On August 3, 2021, Las Cruces Police responded to Mountain View Hospital regarding a gunshot victim. The female victim was an employee of Planet Fitness Gym, located at 1300 El Paseo Road. She recounted to the officer that a man walked up to the counter and threw a tan boot at her. When she went to retrieve the boot, she looked up and Chavez shot her, hitting her on the left side of her abdomen. Multiple witnesses were able to identify Chavez and assist the officers in detailing his retreat down the alley behind Planet Fitness, where he discarded the gun, backpack, and the other boot. The gym's video surveillance footage captured the incident.

Third Judicial Court Judge Conrad Perea sentenced Jose Daniel Chavez to 12 years, citing that the defendant had no previous criminal record. Since Chavez has been held on Pre-Trial Detention, he will receive pre-sentence confinement credit of 588 days towards his sentence.



Jose Daniel Chavez
Photo courtesy of Dona Aña County Detention Center