

OFFICE OF DAKOTA COUNTY ATTORNEY
JAMES C. BACKSTROM
COUNTY ATTORNEY



Dakota County Judicial Center
1560 Highway 55
Hastings, Minnesota 55033-2392
Kathryn M. Keena, Chief Deputy
Thomas Donely, First Assistant
Monica Jensen, Community Relations Director

Telephone
(651) 438-4438
FAX: (651) 438-4479 (Civil Division)
FAX: (651) 438-4500 (Criminal Division)
FAX: (651) 438-4499 (Admin Division)
E-mail: attorney@co.dakota.mn.us

September 4, 2020

NEWS RELEASE

MAN CHARGED WITH ATTEMPTED MURDER OF TWO BURNSVILLE PEACE OFFICERS

Dakota County Attorney James Backstrom announced that **Ricardo Manuel Baldazo, age 39 of Prior Lake**, was charged* today with two counts of Attempted Murder in the First Degree and two counts of Assault in the First Degree in connection with shooting at two peace officers on September 2, 2020, in Burnsville, as they responded to a 911 call.

The allegations contained in the criminal complaint reflect the following:

On September 2, 2020, officers of the Burnsville Police Department were dispatched to a residence regarding a burglary. A male caller reported that someone had just broken into his house and was holding him at gunpoint; the caller then hung up. Attempts by Dispatch and Officers to reach someone went unanswered. Two detectives were nearby and arrived in an unmarked patrol car. They observed an elderly female sitting on the front deck who did not appear distressed. In conversation she stated everything was fine and did not know why the police were called to her home. She indicated her son, Ricardo Manuel Baldazo, was inside taking a nap. A male arrived who identified himself as his brother, who said his brother was inside the residence, high and had guns with him. Shortly thereafter, gunshots could be heard coming from the residence. Officers obtained cover and set up the perimeter. Gunshots continued from inside the home. Several officers on scene feared for their own safety and well-being as well as others within close range of the gunshots. Several gunshots struck branches of trees very near to two Burnsville police officers who had arrived at the scene.

Officers continued to maintain cover when the Defendant was observed jumping from a window while holding a handgun in each hand. The Defendant was told to drop the weapons and he did. Paramedics were called to the scene and he was transported to the hospital. A search was conducted inside the home and officers observed numerous holes in the walls, consistent with being caused by a bullet. Spent casings and two live rounds were also located inside the home. The elderly female stated that the Defendant came over around 4:00 a.m. because he got into a fight with his girlfriend. She last spoke to the Defendant minutes before police arrived and he appeared to be completely normal.

Additional facts pertaining to this case can be found in the criminal complaint at [Criminal Complaint Search](#). While in custody, a mug shot can be viewed at [Inmate Search](#).

Backstrom commented: *“This was an extremely dangerous situation that almost resulted in two officers being shot and could easily have harmed other officers and innocent bystanders as well. I am thankful that no one, including the Defendant, was injured in this incident of gun violence. I wish to extend my best wishes to the officers who were almost shot as they recover from this terrifying experience.”*

Backstrom thanked the Burnsville Police Department for their handling of this shooting incident.

Baldazo made his first appearance in court today and bail in the amount of \$1,000,000 without conditions (\$750,000 with conditions) was set by Dakota County District Court Judge Tim Wermager. Baldazo’s next court appearance is set for September 25, 2020 at 2:30 p.m. in Hastings. If you have questions, contact James Backstrom at 651-438-4438.

**Criminal charges are not evidence of guilt. A defendant/suspect is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.*