

DISTRICT COURT, 12 th JUDICIAL DISTRICT 8955 Independence Way Alamosa, Colorado 81101 (719) 589-4996	DATE FILED June 3, 2026 7:09 PM ▲ COURT USE ONLY ▲
THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF COLORADO vs. CALEB SANCHEZ, Defendant	
ANNE E. KELLY District Attorney - 12th Judicial District 601 Main Street Alamosa, Colorado 81101 Phone: (719) 589-3691 Registration # 38885	Case No: Courtroom:
12TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT GRAND JURY INDICTMENT	

Of the 2025-2026 term of the 12th Judicial District Grand Jury in the year 2026, the 2025-2026 12th Judicial District Grand Jurors, chosen, selected and sworn in the name and by the authority of the People of the State of Colorado, upon their oaths, present the following indictment and described acts, all committed within the County of Costilla, State of Colorado, all done contrary to the form of statutes in such case made and provided, and against the peace and dignity of the People of the State of Colorado, as stated in the counts attached hereto:

COUNT 1: ASSAULT IN THE SECOND DEGREE, C.R.S. 18-3-203

On or about February 3, 2026, Caleb Sanchez, with intent to cause bodily injury to another, unlawfully and feloniously caused serious bodily injury to [REDACTED] in violation of **18-3-203, C.R.S.**

COUNT 2: ASSAULT IN THE THIRD DEGREE, C.R.S. 18-3-204

On or about February 3, 2026, Caleb Sanchez unlawfully, knowingly or recklessly, caused bodily injury to [REDACTED] in violation of section 18-3-204, C.R.S.

Probable causes as to the offenses alleged in Counts 1 and 2 are as follows:

Costilla County [REDACTED] testified before the Grand Jury. The evidence, including all exhibits admitted, and testimony from this witness during the grand jury session established the following facts:

██████████ is a ██████████ ██████████ testified that on February 3, 2026 he was asked to respond by Sergeant Caleb Sanchez to 21806 County Road K.5 in Costilla County, Colorado to respond to the residence of ██████████ ██████████ called dispatch earlier in the day to report that ██████████ wife was missing with ██████████ children after they left that address in ██████████ truck. When ██████████ arrived, ██████████ eventually came to the gate of ██████████ property and spoke with ██████████ ██████████ over the gate. ██████████ was holding a razor-edged hunting arrow to ██████████ own neck and began making statements that ██████████ identified as suicidal in nature. ██████████ stated that ██████████ wife was leaving ██████████ and ██████████ wanted to die. ██████████ testified that it was clear that ██████████ was having a mental health crisis. During the interaction that lasted approximately two hours, ██████████ was told that they had no intention of arresting ██████████ or taking ██████████ to the hospital.

██████████ and Sgt. Sanchez were able to convince ██████████ to drop the arrow and go with them to the Sheriff's Office to speak to ██████████ about possible employment as a jail deputy with the Sheriff's Office. Before entering Sgt. Sanchez's patrol vehicle, Sgt. Sanchez "patted down" ██████████ including requesting that ██████████ empty ██████████ pockets, to confirm that ██████████ had no weapons on ██████████ person.

When the deputies arrived at the Sheriff's Office with ██████████ ██████████ went into the Sheriff's Office with Sgt. Sanchez. A short time later, ██████████ left the Sheriff's Office with Sgt. Sanchez. ██████████ did not hear the conversation outside the Sheriff's Office as ██████████ was in ██████████ patrol vehicle. Approximately three minutes after observing ██████████ leave the Sheriff's Office, ██████████ saw ██████████ walking away from Sgt. Sanchez and ██████████ saw other officers, including Undersheriff Cruz Soto, Sgt. Sanchez, Deputy Roland Riley and Deputy Maurice Cheeks, following ██████████ ██████████ was unarmed and was not making any aggressive actions towards the officers. ██████████ heard the other officers issuing commands to ██████████ not to walk away from them. ██████████ saw ██████████ continue walking/running away and the officers give chase. In ██████████ opinion, the officers should have let ██████████ run away and they did not need to give chase as ██████████ was not a threat or danger. To ██████████ it would have appeared to ██████████ that ██████████ was free to leave under the circumstances. Next, ██████████ heard the sound of multiple Taser deployments. The Taser causes pain and proper procedure is to issue loud verbal warnings before Tasering another, but ██████████ testified ██████████ never heard the other officers issue any warnings before Tasering ██████████ As ██████████ left ██████████ vehicle, ██████████ observed four Sheriff's deputies holding ██████████ on the ground yelling at ██████████ and handcuffing ██████████ ██████████ observed three Taser barbs in ██████████ body, confirming that ██████████ had been Tasered multiple times. In ██████████ opinion, the officer's use of their Tasers was inappropriate and not justified under the circumstances.

Deputy Cheeks and ██████████ transported ██████████ to the hospital. ██████████ observed ██████████ to be in severe pain in ██████████ rib area. ██████████ later learned that ██████████ suffered a broken rib as a result of Deputy Riley and Sgt. Sanchez's Taser deployment.

Several days later, [REDACTED] approached Sgt. Sanchez about the Taser incident with [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] suggested to Sgt. Sanchez that the deputies' use of force was not necessary and was excessive. Sgt. Sanchez replied that [REDACTED] was too new to understand what happened. To the best of [REDACTED] knowledge, none of the other officers documented the events involving [REDACTED] and the Costilla County Sheriff's Office did not conduct a use of force investigation, nor did the Office refer the matter to an outside agency for investigation. After that conversation, [REDACTED] accessed [REDACTED] report from the Sheriff's report management system, Eforce. The action may have been seen by [REDACTED] supervisors and [REDACTED] was locked out of viewing the Sheriff's Office policies, including their use of force policy, shortly thereafter. [REDACTED] provided [REDACTED] report to the Deputy District Attorney ("DDA") John Zachary indicting that [REDACTED] believed the District Attorney should be away of this use of force incident.

[REDACTED] later learned that, on or about March 13, 2026, the District Attorney requested all materials related to this incident. As the members of the Sheriff's office discussed this request, [REDACTED] observed that Sheriff Sanchez appeared not to have any previous knowledge about the incident. Undersheriff Cruz and Sergeant Sanchez had apparently failed to inform Sheriff Sanchez of the incident and failed to complete their reports and documentation of the events despite several weeks have passed.

[REDACTED] testified before the Grand Jury. The evidence, including all exhibits admitted, and testimony from this witness during the grand jury session established the following facts:

[REDACTED] is a certified [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] has been a certified instructor for the use and training of [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] was trained by a master instructor, and had trained and instructed multiple law enforcement officers in proper use of Tasers. [REDACTED] is exceedingly familiar with use of Taser devices including standard policies and procedures related to Taser usage by law enforcement. [REDACTED] is required to be familiar with this information in order to maintain and utilize [REDACTED] certification as a [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] was presented as an expert in the use of Taser's devices by law enforcement personnel.

██████████ testified that Taser devices are less-than-lethal energy weapons. Tasers are effective in utilizing pain compliance in a subject by creating neuromuscular incapacitation. Taser devices are intended to cause pain and physical incapacitation in a subject. Agency policies generally do not allow use of Tasers for those who are a threat only to themselves unless the person is in imminent danger of harming or killing themselves. A Taser is one step below the use of lethal force and is not usually used in the scenario of bringing an uncooperative person to the hospital for medical welfare purposes. Policies generally require documentation and reporting if the Taser is drawn, and especially if it is deployed. ██████████ discussed the use of force continuum in regards to Taser use. The steps include: (1) officer presence, (2) verbal command, (3) draw the Taser, (4) arm the Taser, (5) activate laser targeting, (6) "arc" warning, and (7) deploy the Taser probes. Many of these steps are designed to inform the person they are about to be Tasered and to allow them to comply without being Tasered. Risks involving the use of Tasers include: the probe breaking the skin, fall risk, electricity injected into the body causing dangers to those with prior health conditions, and multiple Taser cycles causes health complications. Deescalation attempts and verbal warning are required under most policies unless the circumstances don't allow it.

██████████ reviewed the body worn camera footage captured by Undersheriff Soto, Sgt. Sanchez, Deputy Riley, Deputy Cheeks and Deputy Smith. The video from Sgt. Sanchez showed the following:

██████████ told Sgt. Sanchez "you can take me home." Sgt. Sanchez told ██████████ "for this not to go wrong or go south, we are asking you to go voluntarily and, let me finish, you tell the hospital what you want. If you don't tell them you're going to kill yourself, they're not going to keep you. If you go voluntarily in the ambulance, they'll take you." During the conversation, Sgt. Sanchez say "we're not trying to take you anywhere. Just go to the hospital on your own accord." ██████████ started walking away and became agitated when ██████████ noticed three other deputies surrounding ██████████. ██████████ continued to express anger about "being lied to" by law enforcement. When other deputies began approaching ██████████, ██████████ is visibly upset and says "bring it, do it!". ██████████ turned and started walking away from deputies. Deputy Riley then told ██████████ to stop walking away. ██████████ then turned around and extended ██████████ arms out to ██████████ sides.

Deputy Riley and Sgt. Sanchez then both unholstered their Taser devices. It appeared that ██████████ saw this because ██████████ turned around, ducked slightly and pulled ██████████ jacket over ██████████ head. Deputy Riley and Sgt. Sanchez both deployed their Taser devices. Sgt. Sanchez deployed his Taser device twice.

██████████ clearly appeared to be affected by the deployment as ██████████ body stiffened and ██████████ fell face first on the asphalt pavement. ██████████ is then heard screaming in pain. Undersheriff Cruz immediately gets on the top of ██████████ and appears to attempt to drive stun ██████████ with his Taser. Undersheriff Cruz then forcibly puts handcuffs on ██████████. During this time, Deputy Riley and Sgt. Sanchez yell at ██████████ saying "you had your chance! You're going to get it again!"

Deputy Riley and Sgt. Sanchez both unholstered their Taser devices and pointed them at [REDACTED]. Undersheriff Soto stood immediately next to Deputy Riley and Sgt. Sanchez in view of the two deputies unholstering their Taser devices. Undersheriff Cruz did nothing to stop Deputy Riley and Sgt. Sanchez from unholstering their Tasers devices, pointing them at [REDACTED] and then discharging their Tasers. Sgt. Sanchez deployed his Taser twice, and Deputy Riley deployed his Taser once.

[REDACTED] provided an opinion about Deputy Riley and Sgt. Sanchez's use of force on [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] concluded that the Taser use in this incident represented an excessive use of force. [REDACTED] opined that the Taser deployment was unnecessary and unjustified for several reasons.

First, no deputy no scene provided [REDACTED] with verbal warnings of the potential use of the Taser on [REDACTED] in order to provide [REDACTED] with an opportunity to comply. [REDACTED] did not pose an immediate threat to the deputies or others. [REDACTED] was not acting violently nor physically resisting officers at the time the Taser was deployed. [REDACTED] was unarmed. The officers could not have had a reasonable belief that other available options would be ineffective, impractical or would present a greater danger to themselves or others.

Second, [REDACTED] was not under arrest nor had [REDACTED] committed any crime at the time the Tasers were deployed. In fact, [REDACTED] was repeated told that law enforcement wanted [REDACTED] to go to the hospital voluntarily or of [REDACTED] "own accord." The officers had no basis to order [REDACTED] to order [REDACTED] to stop attempting to leave, and [REDACTED] had no reason to believe [REDACTED] would be required to remain on scene

Third, Tasers should not be deployed in situations where a subject is only demonstrating verbal defiance or gestures or passive resistance. Mere flight is also not a permitted use of the Taser device without additional aggravating circumstances. [REDACTED]'s conduct here was, at most, verbal defiance and passive resistance.

Fourth, [REDACTED] also noted that [REDACTED] was struck with three separate sets of Taser probes. [REDACTED] opined while one set of Taser probes would have been excessive in these circumstance, three sets of Taser probes was certainly excessive. [REDACTED] observed that Sgt. Sanchez deployed his device twice. If the Taser deployment was appropriate, which it was not in [REDACTED] opinion, Sgt. Sanchez should have allowed time for [REDACTED] to comply before deploying his Taser a second time.

[REDACTED] opined that it is well known and should have been well known to Deputy Riley, Sgt. Sanchez and Undersheriff Soto that mere flight from law enforcement is not a justification for the use of a Taser device to apprehend an individual without additional dangers or aggravating circumstances. [REDACTED] further opined that Undersheriff Soto should have immediately attempted to prevent Deputy Riley and Sgt. Sanchez from unholstering and deploying their Taser devices because the sue of the Taser device was clearly inappropriate in that circumstance.

██████████ testified before the Grand Jury. The evidence, including all exhibits admitted, and testimony from this witness during the grand jury session established the following facts:

██████████ conducted an interview with ██████████ about this incident. ██████████ stated ██████████ was having a mental health crisis in February and the Costilla County Sheriff's Office responded. ██████████ was convinced to go to the Sheriff's Office to speak about ██████████ possible employment with the Sheriff's Office. ██████████ believed ██████████ was free to leave at any time and confirmed that no one told him ██████████ was under arrest or not free to leave. When ██████████ learned that the Sheriff's Office wanted ██████████ to go to the hospital "voluntarily", ██████████ no longer wanted to be at the Sheriff's Office. ██████████ reported that when ██████████ started to walk away, ██████████ was "tased and roughed up" by the deputies. ██████████ was never informed that ██████████ was being arrested or criminally charged. ██████████ claimed that ██████████ suffered broken ribs as a result of the incident.

Around the same time that DDA John Zachary reported that ██████████ told ██████████ about the events and provided ██████████ with ██████████ report for ██████████ review

██████████ had not previously known about this use of force incident. ██████████ testified that it is unusual that a law enforcement agency would not seek the assistance of another law enforcement agency to complete a use of force investigation when a citizen suffers serious bodily injury as ██████████ suffered in this instance. ██████████ confirmed that no criminal charges were requested by the Sheriff's Office for ██████████

██████████ obtained ██████████'s medical records from February 3 through February 5, 2026. The medical records indicate that ██████████ suffered a non-displaced fracture of the tenth rib and was experiencing pain from that fracture while being treated at a San Luis Valley Health facility.

On March 13, 2026, ██████████ sent an email to the Sheriff's Office requesting all reports and body worn camera footage from the incident. The District Attorney's Office received five written reports. The reports written by Sgt. Sanchez and Undersheriff Cruz were written on March 16, 2026, three days after the District Attorney requested the material and over a month after the incident.

Officers have a duty to report excessive use of force by other officers within 10 days. Undersheriff Soto did not report this to Sheriff Sanchez in a timely manner. Officers have a duty to intervene when witnessing other officers using excessive force. Undersheriff Soto failed to live up to this duty.

██████████ is an experienced use of force investigator and found that the evidence in this case represents unjustified use of excessive force by the Costilla County Sheriff's Office. This opinion is based on the facts that ██████████ committed no crime, was never told ██████████ was under arrest (although the officers arguably had justification for a mental health hold), ██████████ was given no definitive warning or command that ██████████ was not free to leave, and that application of force in this circumstances presented high risk of injury. Additionally, Sgt. Sanchez behavior after the Tasing reflected that he acted out of anger at ██████████'s defiance.

AS TO COUNT ONE:
A TRUE BILL

A NO TRUE BILL

Foreperson

Foreperson

AS TO COUNT TWO:
A TRUE BILL

A NO TRUE BILL

Foreperson

Foreperson

I, _____, the Foreperson of the 2025-2026 12th Judicial District Grand Jury, do hereby swear and affirm that each and every True Bill returned in this indictment by the 2025-2026 12th Judicial District Grand Jury was arrived at after deliberation and with the assent and agreement to the existence of probable cause by at least nine members of the 2025-2026 12th Judicial District Grand Jury. The 2025-2026 12th Judicial District Grand Jury further authorizes the District Attorney for the 12th Judicial District to return this indictment to open court with or without the presence of the foreperson.

Foreperson

Subscribed to before me in the City and County of Alamosa, State of Colorado,
this _____ day of _____, 2026

Notary Public

My commission expires: _____

ANNE E. KELLY
DISTRICT ATTORNEY
12th JUDICIAL DISTRICT

By: /s/ Anne E. Kelly Date:
Anne E. Kelly, # 38885
District Attorney
12th Judicial District

The 2025-2026 12th Judicial District Grand Jury presents the within Indictment, and the same is hereby ORDERED FILED this _____ day of _____, 2026

Pursuant to § 13-73-107, C.R.S., the Court designates _____
County, Colorado as the county of venue for the purposes of trial.

Dated this _____ day of _____, 2026

Judge