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For Immediate Release

Iowa City Man Sentenced to 20 Years for Willful Injury of Five People
with His Vehicle While Intoxicated

July 8, 2026 (JOHNSON COUNTY, IA) – On July 3, 2026, Roman Aguilar Ventura, age 30, of Iowa City, was sentenced to 20 years for charges of Operating While Intoxicated - 3rd or Subsequent Offense, a Class D Felony; 2 counts of Willful Injury Resulting in Bodily Injury, a Class D Felony; 3 counts of Assault While Displaying Dangerous Weapon/Use of Dangerous Weapon, an Aggravated Misdemeanor; Driving While Barred – Habitual Offender, an Aggravated Misdemeanor; and Driving While License Denied or Revoked, a Serious Misdemeanor. Aguilar pled guilty to these charges in March 2026.

In August of 2025, Aguilar drove his vehicle into five people residing in tents at the corner of Southgate Avenue and Waterfront Drive after a dispute and then fled the scene of the incident. Iowa City Police officers located Aguilar at his residence, where he showed signs of alcohol intoxication.

Johnson County Attorney Rachel Zimmermann Smith said, “The Defendant targeted vulnerable people who were living in an unsafe situation. This sentence ensures that he will no longer be a danger to the public.”

This case was investigated by the Iowa City Police Department and prosecuted by Assistant Johnson County Attorney Jeff Brunelle.

-END-

Attached: Sentencing Order

IN THE IOWA DISTRICT COURT IN AND FOR JOHNSON COUNTY

52DOC

STATE OF IOWA, vs. ROMAN AGUILAR VENTURA	06521 OWCR147732 Counts I, II, III, IX, X, XI, XIII, XIV CHANGE OF PLEA JUDGMENT AND SENTENCE
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The defendant appears by written plea, with the approval of counsel, and asks permission to withdraw the previously entered plea of not guilty for the purpose of entering a plea of guilty to the crime of **Operating While Under the Influence--3rd Offense in violation of Iowa Code Section 321J.2 in Count I, Willful Injury Resulting in Bodily Injury in violation of Iowa Code Section 708.4(2) in Count II, Willful Injury Resulting in Bodily Injury in violation of Iowa Code Section 708.4(2) in Count III, Assault With Dangerous Weapon in violation of Iowa Code Section 708.1(2)(c) & 708.2(3) in Count IX, Assault With Dangerous Weapon in violation of Iowa Code Section 708.1(2)(c) & 708.2(3) in Count X, Assault With Dangerous Weapon in violation of Iowa Code Section 708.1(2)(c) & 708.2(3) in Count XI, Driving While Barred in violation of Iowa Code Section 321.560 & 321.561 in Count XIII, & Driving While License Denied or Revoked in violation of Iowa Code Section 321J.21 in Count XIV .**

From an examination of the written plea, the Court finds it is voluntarily made with full knowledge of defendant's constitutional rights and of the potential penal consequences. From examining the trial information, the minutes of testimony, and the plea, the Court finds an adequate factual basis. Accordingly, the guilty plea is accepted by the Court and entered of record.

Defendant waives personal appearance at the time of sentencing and the right to file a motion in arrest of judgment and consents to the entry of immediate judgment and sentence. Accordingly,

IT IS THE JUDGMENT OF THE COURT that the Defendant is committed to the custody of the Director of the Iowa Department of Corrections for an indeterminate term not to exceed five years in Count I, five years in Count II, five years in Count III, two years in Count IX, two years in Count X, two years in Count XI, two years in Count XIII, and one year in Count XIV with credit being given for any time previously served on this charge.

Defendant's term of incarceration may be reduced by as much as half of the maximum sentence because of statutory good conduct time, work credits, and program credits. The Defendant may be eligible for parole before the sentence is discharged.

The Sentences in Counts I, II, III, IX, XIII, & XIV shall be served consecutive to one another.

The sentences in Counts XI, X, XI shall be served concurrent to each other.

Financial obligations

IT IS THE JUDGMENT OF THE COURT that the defendant be sentenced to pay a fine in the amount of \$3,125.00 in Count I, \$1,025.00 (suspended) in Count II, \$1,025.00 (suspended) in Count III, \$855.00 (suspended) in Count XI, \$855.00 (suspended) in Count X, \$855.00 (suspended) in Count XI, \$855.00 (suspended) in Count XIII, & \$1,000.00 in Count XIV plus 15% crime services surcharge, court costs, attorney fees, and victim restitution, if any. If restitution is sought, the County Attorney shall file a Statement of Pecuniary Damages within 30 days.

Defendant is granted 15 days after the filing of a Statement of Pecuniary Damages to file a written objection to restitution.

PAYMENT PLAN: Defendant shall pay amounts due in monthly installments of at least \$50.00 no later than the 6th day of each month beginning August 6, 2026, and continuing until paid in full. This finding is based upon a finding of indigency made by the Court prior to the date of sentencing or a motion and/or a financial affidavit filed prior to sentencing.

Payments may be made online at www.iowacourts.gov or through the Clerk of Court, Johnson County Courthouse, 417 South Clinton Street, Iowa City, Iowa 52240. The Court finds that community service will be prudent and effective for defendant; therefore, defendant may elect to pay some or all of the amounts due through the performance of community service at the minimum wage rate (currently \$7.25). If defendant elects to perform community service, he/she must provide proof of completion of 7 hours of community service per month per each \$50 owed.

NOTICE: FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH PAYMENT ORDER

Defendant is notified that if he/she fails to pay as ordered above within 30 days of the due date, action regarding his/her motor vehicle registration or suspension of his/her driver's license, or both, may be initiated and the total remaining court debt will be considered delinquent and sent to the Johnson County Attorney for collection.

The Defendant is further subjected to a six year driver's license revocation pursuant to Chapter 321J based on the conviction in Count I.

The Defendant is Ordered to obtain a substance abuse evaluation and follow through with treatment pursuant to the conviction in Count I.

The Defendant is Ordered to complete a 12 hour drunk drivers course pursuant to the conviction in Count I.

Pursuant to Iowa Code Section 81.2, the defendant shall submit a DNA sample for DNA profiling within 60 days. Failure to timely submit a DNA sample may result in Contempt of Court proceedings pursuant to Iowa Code Chapter 665.

Sentence is imposed pursuant to the plea agreement between the parties and/or any applicable mandatory sentencing requirements, and/or pursuant to the reasons stated on the record.

The Defendant shall remain incarcerated to serve this sentence.

Pursuant to the plea agreement, Counts IV, V, VI, VII, VIII, & XII is/are dismissed, with costs assessed to the State.

Bond is exonerated. The Clerk shall allocate bond in accordance with authorization from the surety as set forth in the Authorization for Return of Cash Bond Following Arrest and Bond Information form, if any. If bond is currently subject to forfeiture, pending proceedings are cancelled.

Based upon the record, any updated financial information, and the authorization for a payment plan and community service, the Court finds that the defendant is reasonably able to pay Category B restitution (which may include filing fees, interpreter fees, service fees, court reporter fees, etc.) in the maximum amount of \$0.00 and court-appointed attorney fees and expenses in the amount of \$0.00. In addition, the defendant is ordered to pay Category B restitution to public agencies and/or the Crime Victim Compensation Program pursuant to the Statement of Pecuniary Damages unless a hearing is requested on reasonable ability to pay.

If counsel is court-appointed, the attorney and/or the attorney's office is withdrawn from representation in this matter upon satisfaction of the requirements of Iowa R. Crim. P. 2.30(1) without further order of the Court. To be removed from EDMS indexing, counsel should file a notice of withdrawal pursuant to Iowa R. Elec. P. 16.315(1)(d) and 16.318.

Any open warrants are recalled.

RIGHT TO APPEAL

The defendant is advised of the right to appeal this judgment and sentence. An appeal must be filed with the Clerk of Court in writing within 30 days from the date of this order. If a notice of appeal is not timely filed, the right to appeal is waived. Defendant may qualify for court-appointed counsel and transcripts at State expense. Bond on appeal is set in the amount of \$30,000.00 (cash only).



State of Iowa Courts

Case Number
OWCR147732
Type:

Case Title
STATE OF IOWA VS AGUILAR VENTURA, ROMAN
Order of Disposition

So Ordered

Brandon Schrock, District Associate Judge,
Sixth Judicial District of Iowa

Electronically signed on 2026-07-07 08:42:57