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Falls City Man to Face Murder Charge

(KLZA)--New charges will be filed against a Falls City man in connection with the shooting death of another Falls City man earlier this month

34-year-old Desiderio Hernandez appeared in Richardson County Court Monday, where Deputy County Attorney Zach Blackman told the court he plans to file amended charges of murder in the first degree, use of a firearm to commit a felony and possession of a firearm by a prohibited person against Hernandez.

Hernandez was originally charged with attempted first-degree murder for the August 5th shooting of 31-year-old Joseph Debella Jr. Debella died August 13th at a Lincoln hospital. A preliminary hearing on that charge had been set for Monday.

A preliminary hearing on the new charges was scheduled for September 16th.

Hernandez appeared in court without counsel. He told Judge Curtis Maschman he intends to file a request for an appointed attorney. Maschman said he would likely contact the Commission on Public Advocacy to see if it is a case they would take on.

Bond was continued in the case, having previously been set at \$1.5 million.

Hernandez was arrested early August 6th following a nearly seven-hour standoff at a residence in Horton, Kansas.

Two other men are also charged in the case. 29-year-old John Hall and 19-year-old Brett Winters are accused of tampering with evidence at the Morton Street residence where the shooting occurred.

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