



# *Pueblo County Sheriff's Office*

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## News Release

For Immediate Release  
Contact: Gayle Perez 719 924 5471

Date: February 28, 2022

### **Detectives Find Drugs, Gun After Arresting Felon for Auto Theft**

**Pueblo, CO:** A 36-year-old convicted felon, who was tracked down in a stolen vehicle Monday afternoon as part of special operation by members of a BATTLE (Beating Auto Theft Through Law Enforcement) team, was also found to be in possession of a handgun and drugs by Pueblo Police, State Patrol, and the Pueblo County Sheriff's Office.

Members of the BATTLE team, which originates with the Colorado State Patrol, is composed of Pueblo County Sheriff's detectives, Pueblo Police and the State Patrol, were working an operation in Pueblo County, when they located a 2015 Land Rover that had been reported stolen out of Colorado Springs. BATTLE members contacted the driver of the vehicle, identified as Samuel Rivera, who was not the registered owner.

Pueblo County Sheriff's detectives took the lead on the investigation and discovered Rivera, who is a convicted felon, was also in possession of a handgun and 8.5 grams of fentanyl, 1.5 grams heroin and 1.5 grams of methamphetamine.

Rivera was arrested for aggravated motor vehicle theft, unlawful distribution of a controlled substance, three counts of possession of a controlled substance, possession of a weapon by a previous offender, three counts of a protection order violation and a warrant for domestic violence. He has been booked into the Pueblo County Jail.

A passenger in the vehicle is also being investigated. Possible charges for the passenger are being forwarded to the 10<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Attorney's office for review. The investigation is ongoing.

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