



# *Pueblo County Sheriff's Office*

Kirk M. Taylor Sheriff  
J.R. Hall Undersheriff

Mark A. Mears  
Bureau Chief  
*Emergency Services*

David J. Lucero  
Bureau Chief  
*Law Enforcement*

Jeffrey S. Teschner  
Bureau Chief  
*Detention*

## News Release

For Immediate Release  
Contact: Gayle Perez 719 924 5471  
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### **Deputies Arrest Pueblo West Man After Finding Illegal Marijuana Grow in Home**

**Pueblo, CO:** Pueblo County Sheriff's Deputies, following up on a citizen's tip of a possible marijuana grow at a Pueblo West home, arrested a 54-year-old man today and seized 24 mature marijuana plants worth an estimated street value of \$72,000.

Deputies went to a home in the 1100 block E. Marengo Drive after receiving a tip of a possible marijuana grow at the home. Deputies spoke with resident, identified as Jose Fernandez, who confirmed he was growing marijuana in the home but said he had a license allowing him to have 50 plants. State law allows only 12 marijuana plants per household.

Deputies asked Fernandez if they could see the plants and Fernandez agreed, showing them numerous marijuana plants growing in two separate rooms in the basement of the home. Fernandez admitted to having 24 plants.

Deputies exited the home and sought a search warrant. Sheriff's Narcotics Detectives executed the search warrant and found 24 mature plants, some measuring 6-feet tall in the home. The Pueblo Regional Building Department condemned the home due to extensive and unsafe electrical work done to accommodate the grow.

Deputies arrested Fernandez for cultivation of marijuana (more than 6 but less than 30 plants CR 18-18-406 3, Drug Felony 4). He has been booked into the Pueblo County Jail. The penalty for this offense includes a fine from \$1,000 to \$100,000 and up to two years in jail.

This marked the second time in the past three years that Sheriff's Deputies have gone to the home on the report of a possible illegal marijuana grow. In 2016, Deputies found Fernandez had 33 marijuana plants growing in the home which was within the legal limit at the time. In 2018, the law was changed to limit the number of marijuana plants to 12 per household.

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