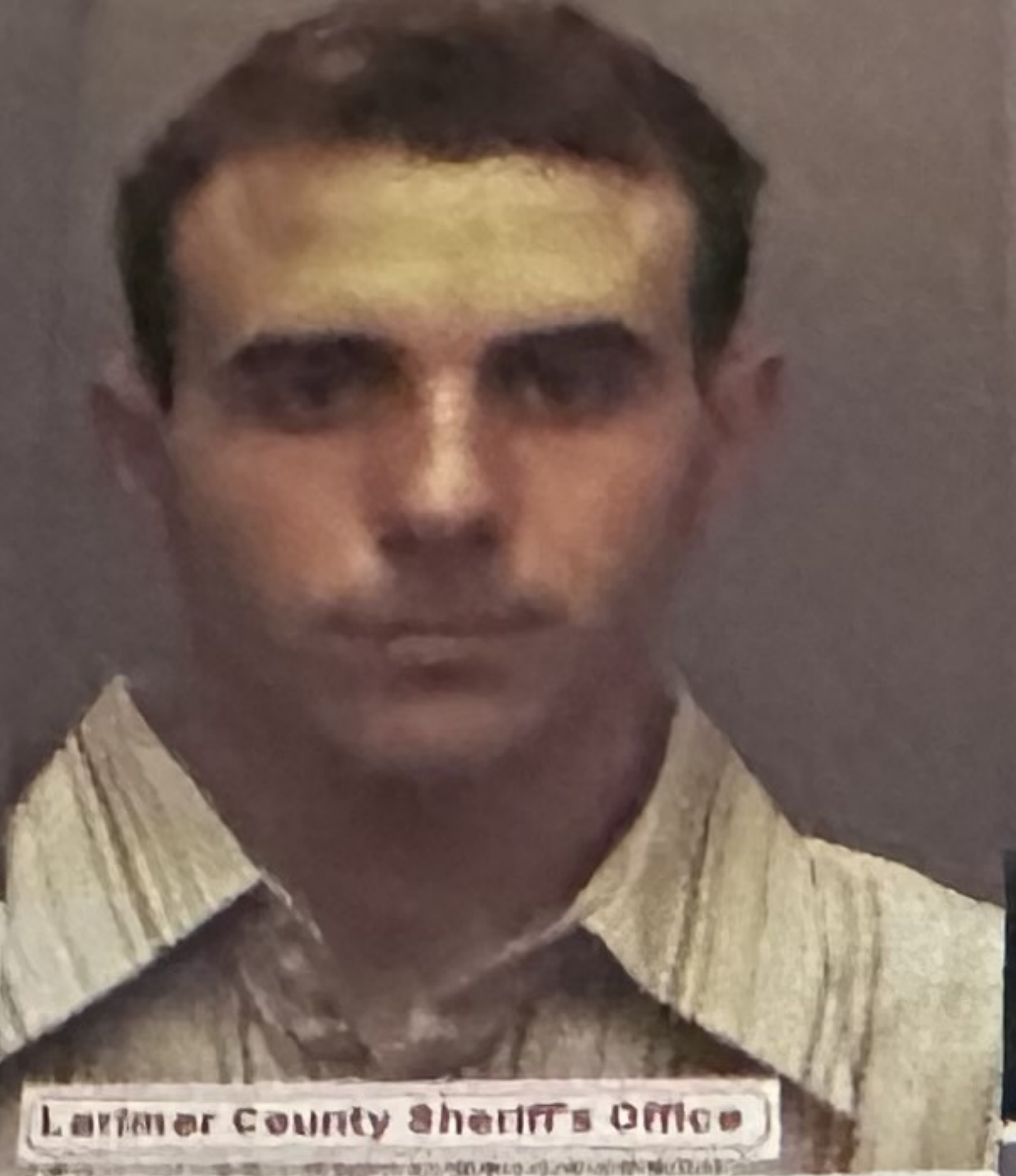
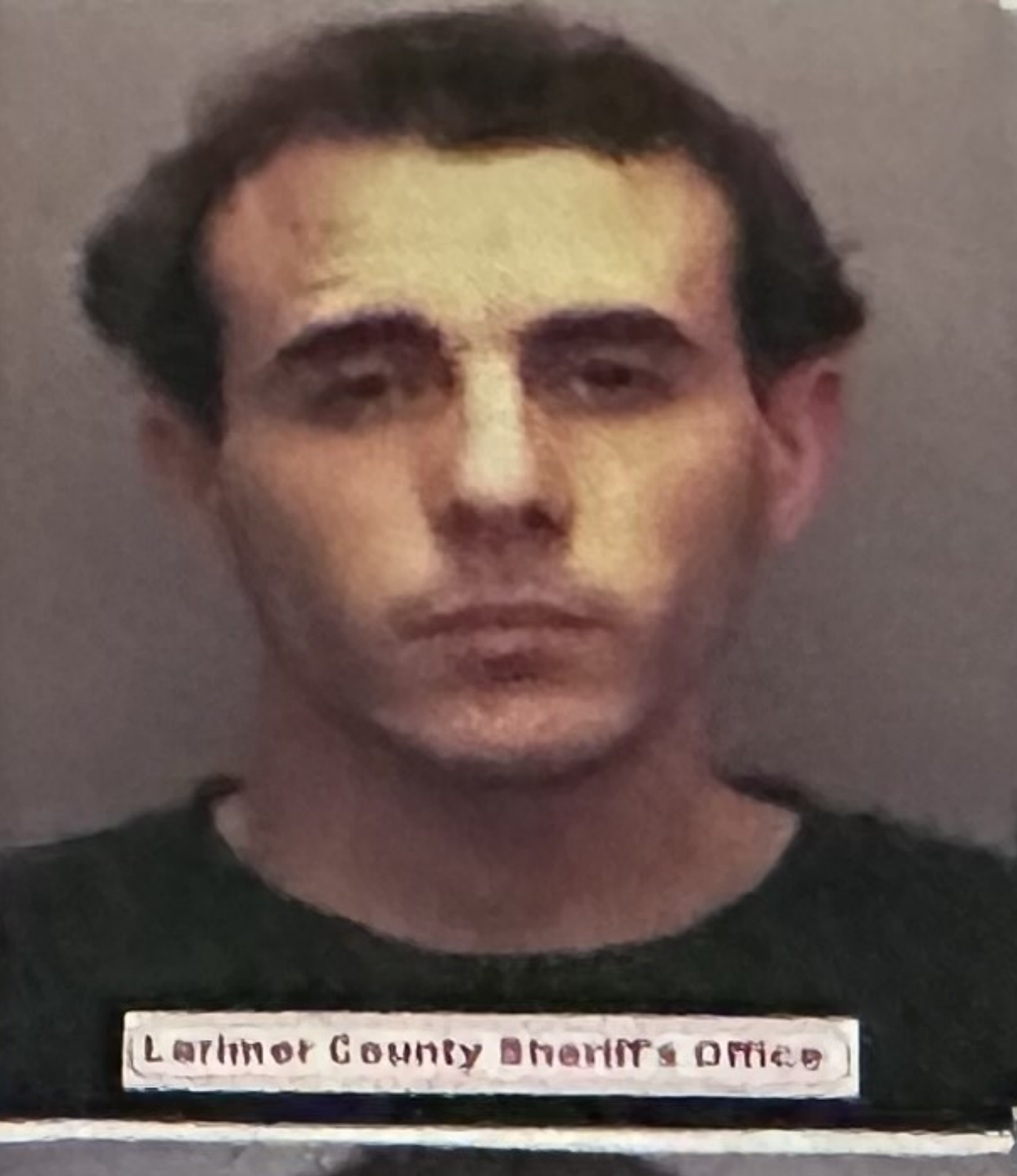


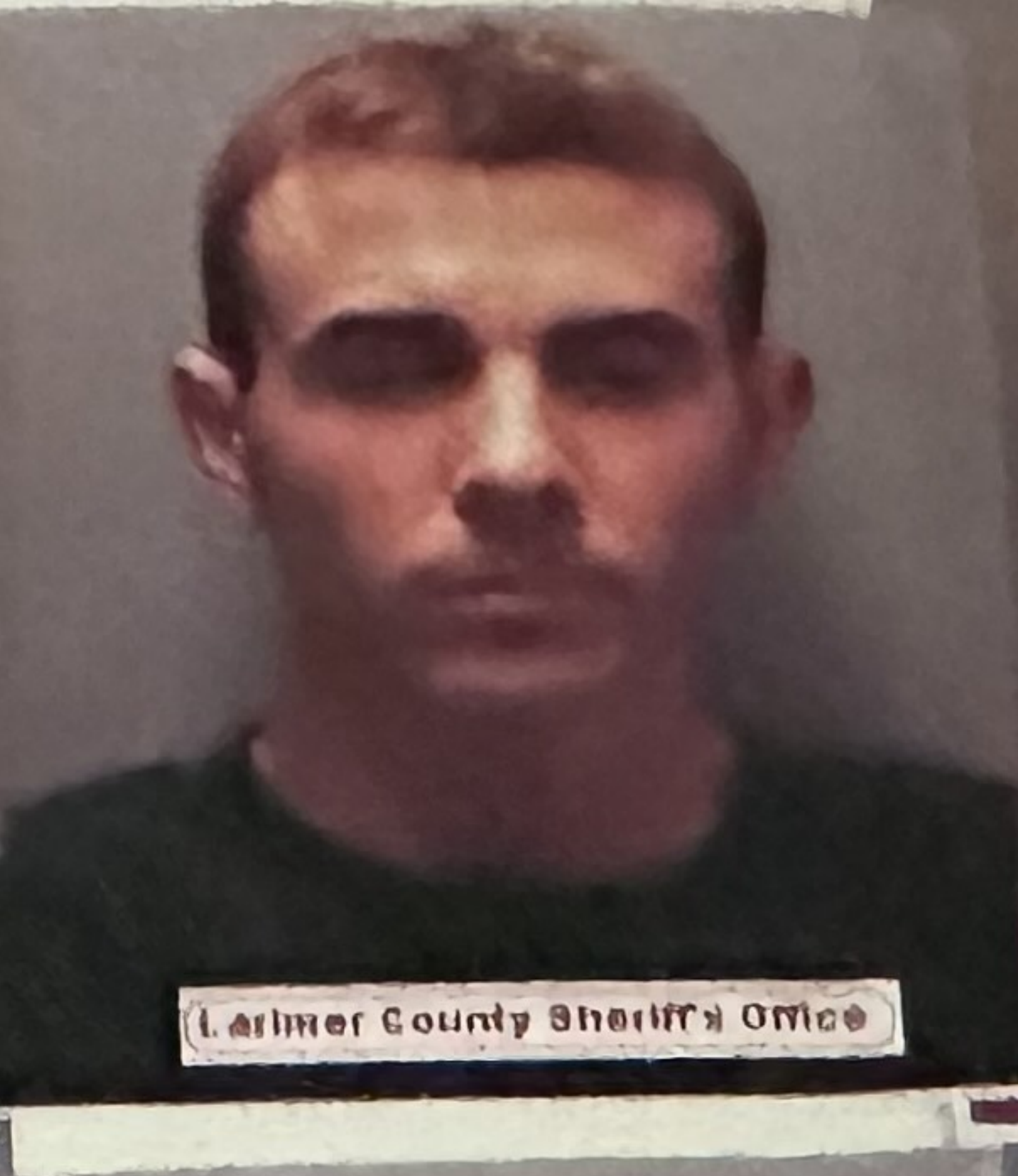
Larimer County Sheriff's Office



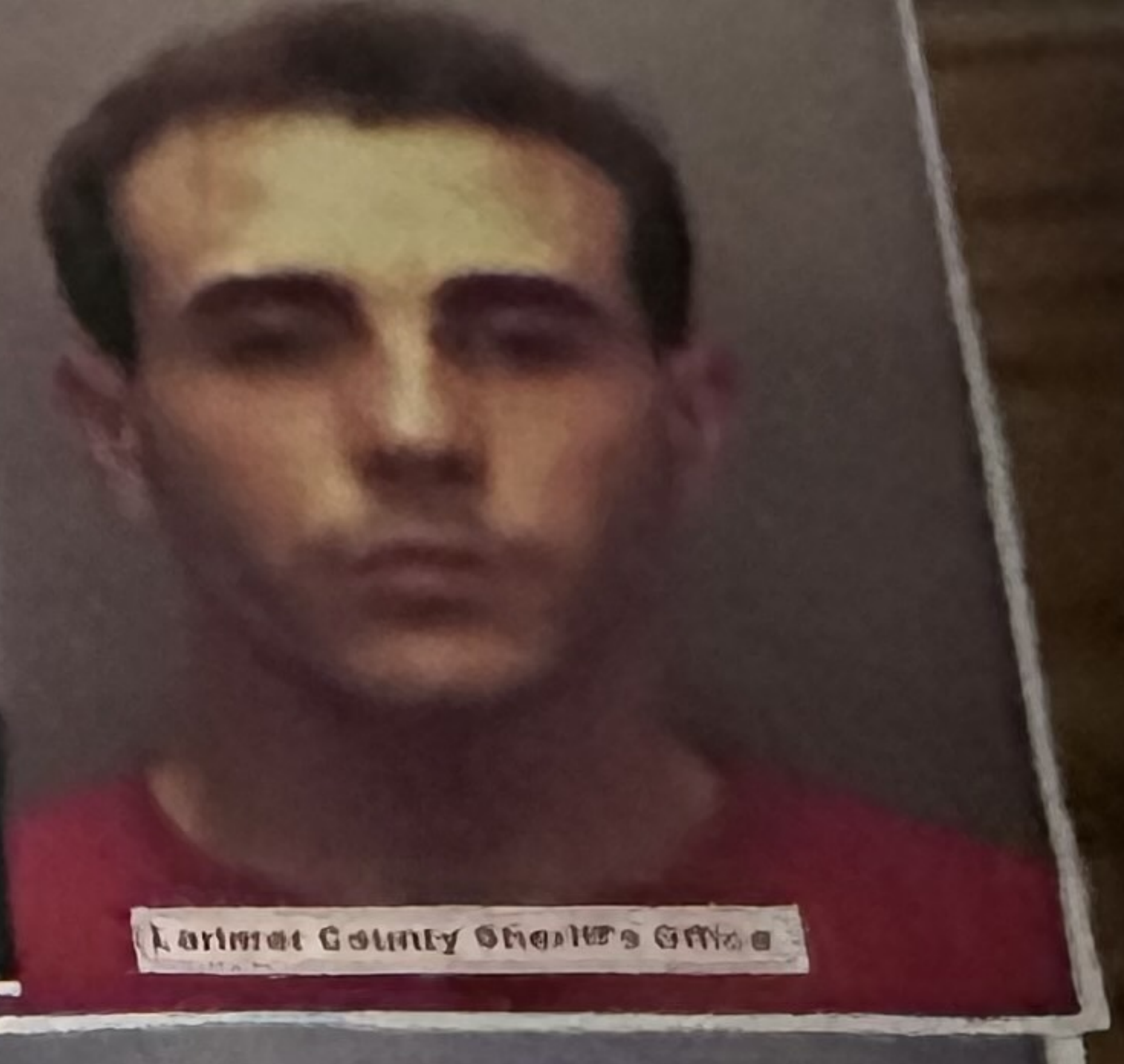
Larimer County Sheriff's Office



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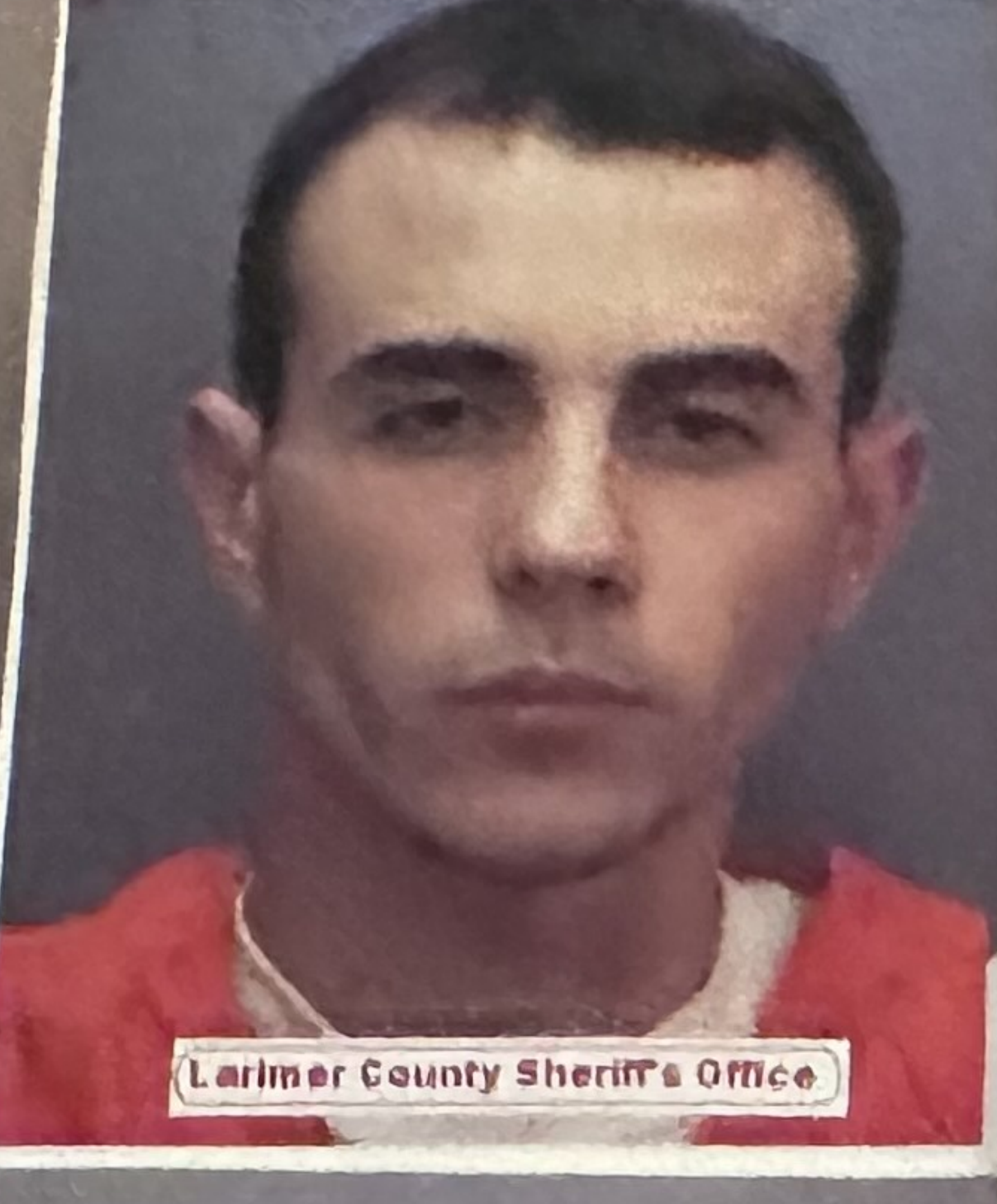
Larimer County Sheriff's Office



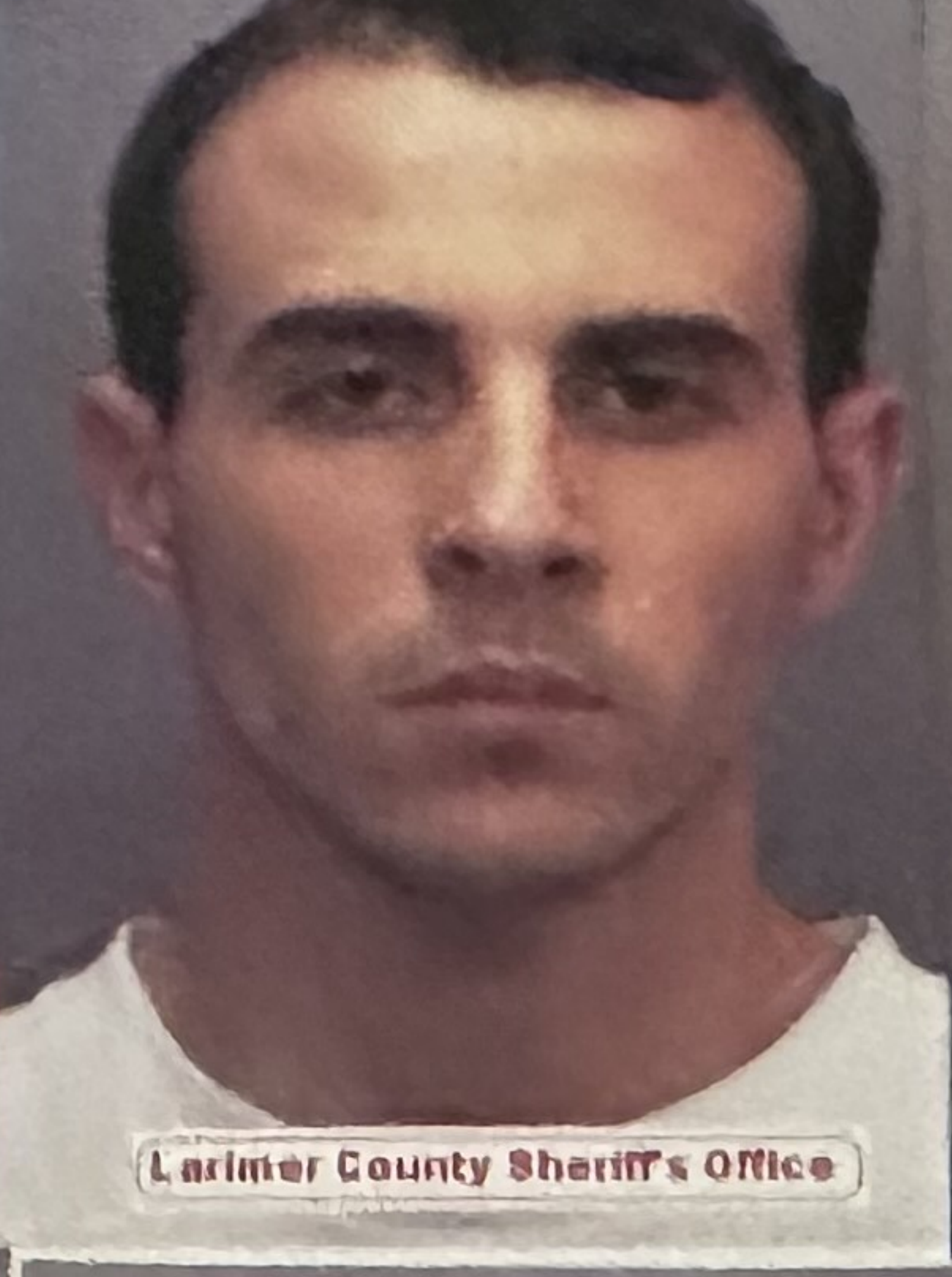
Larimer County Sheriff's Office



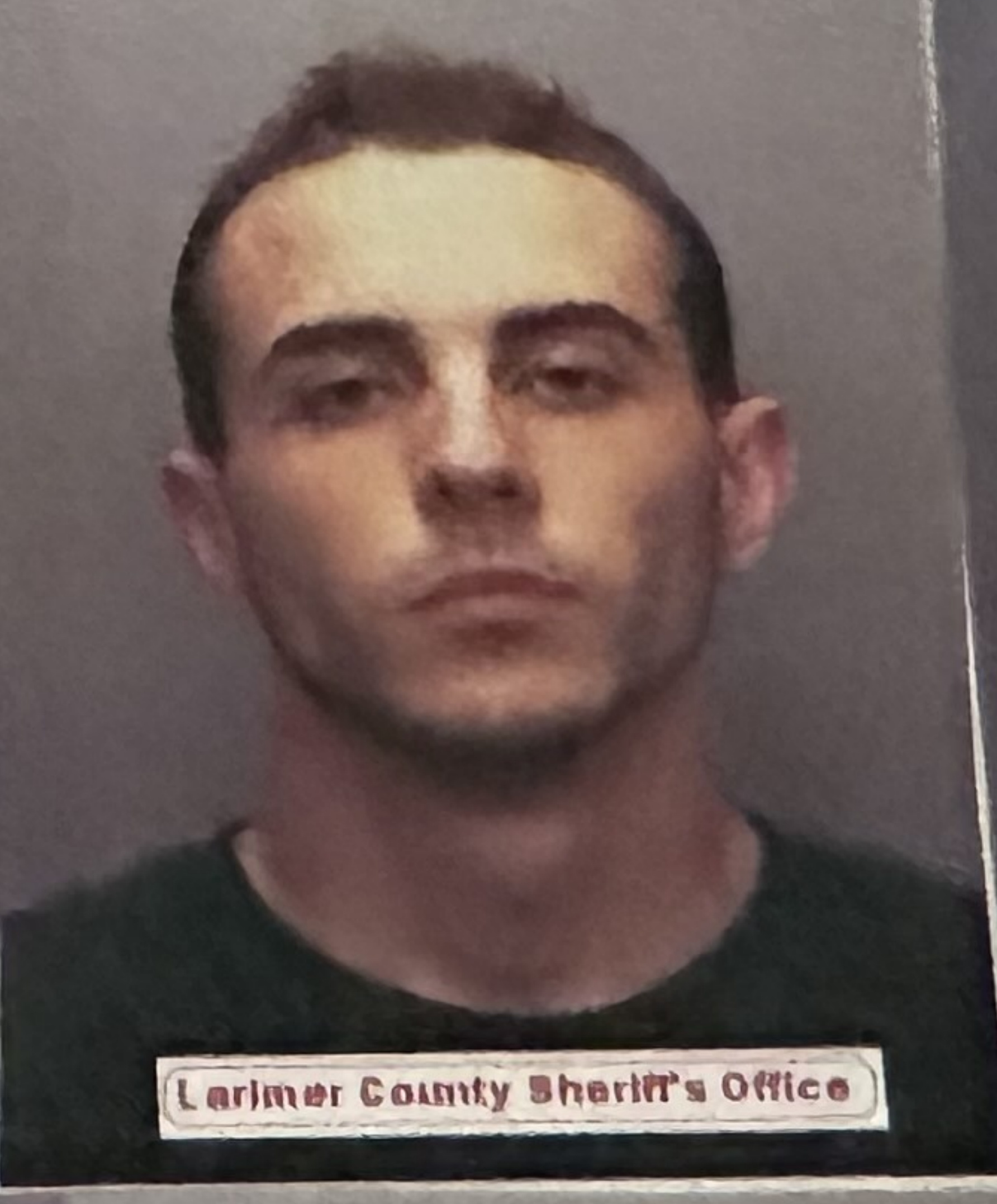
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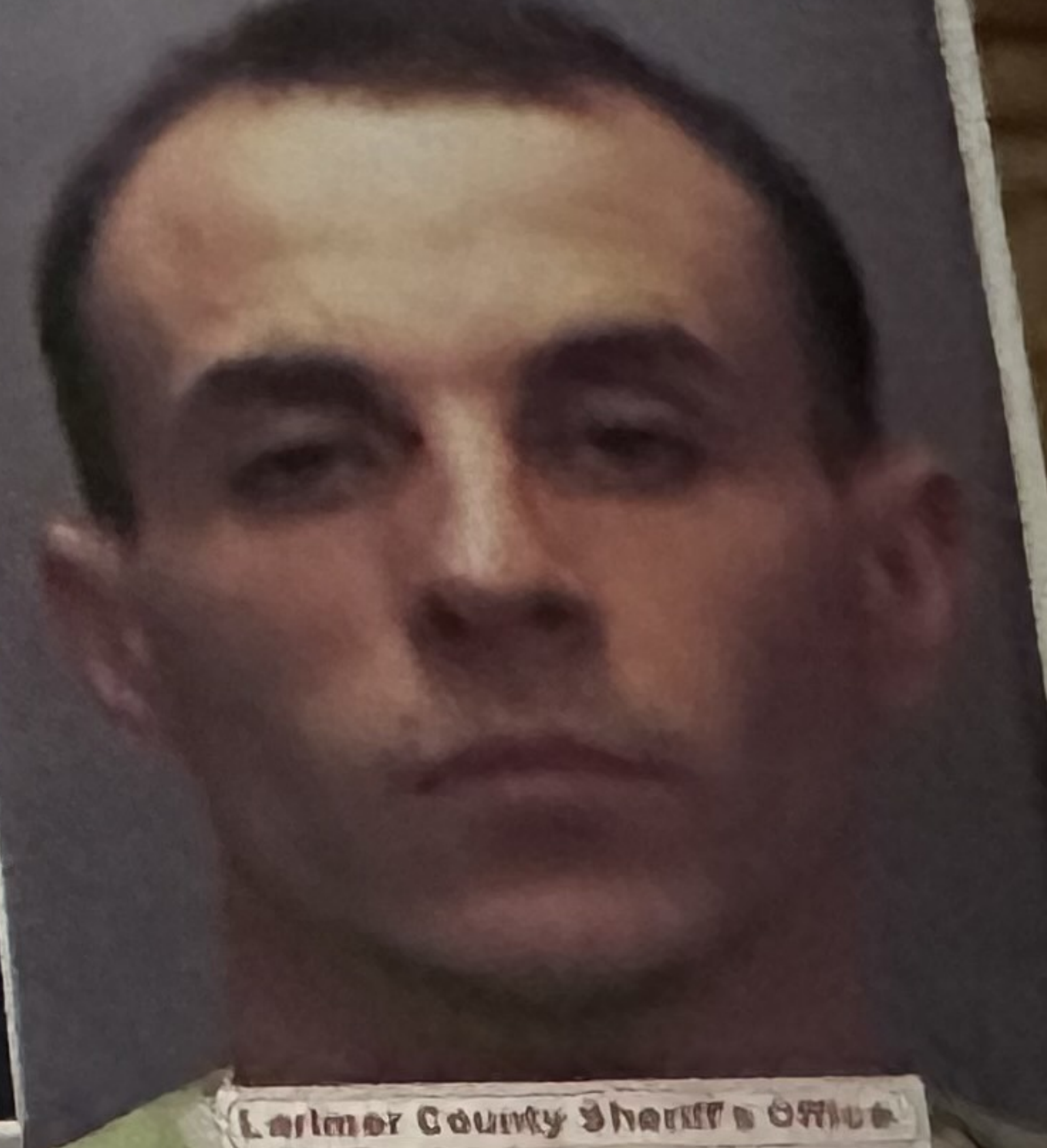
Larimer County Sheriff's Office



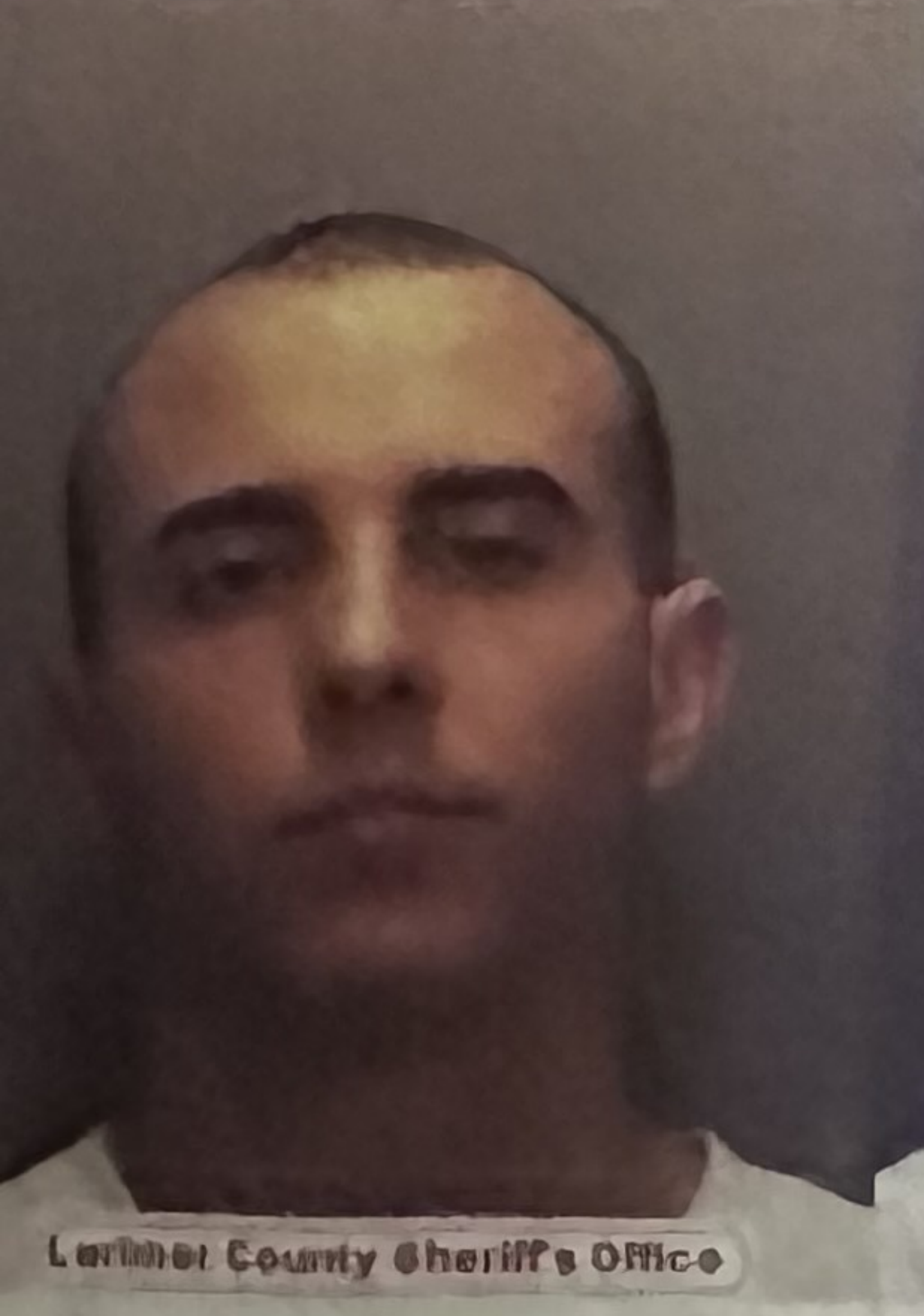
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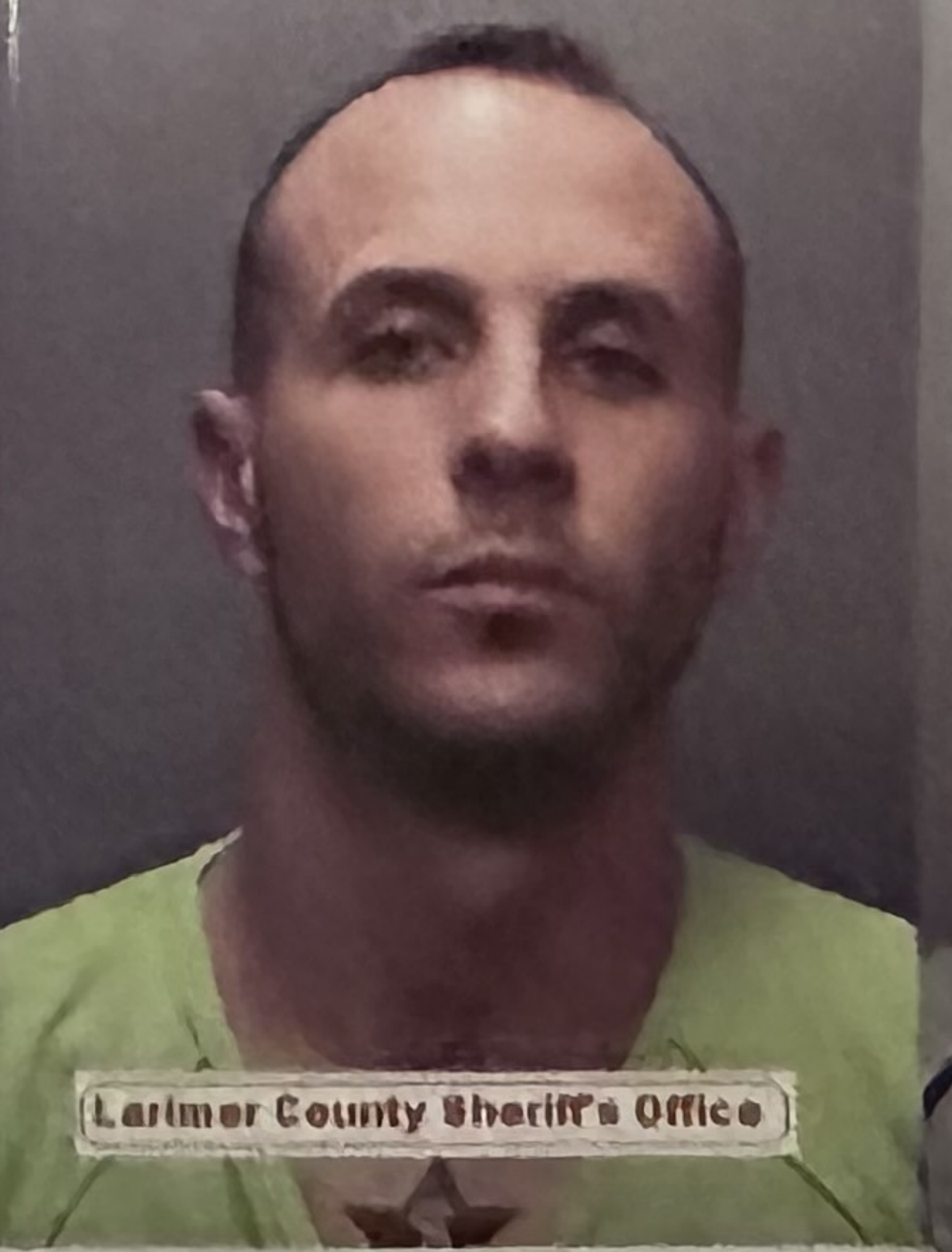
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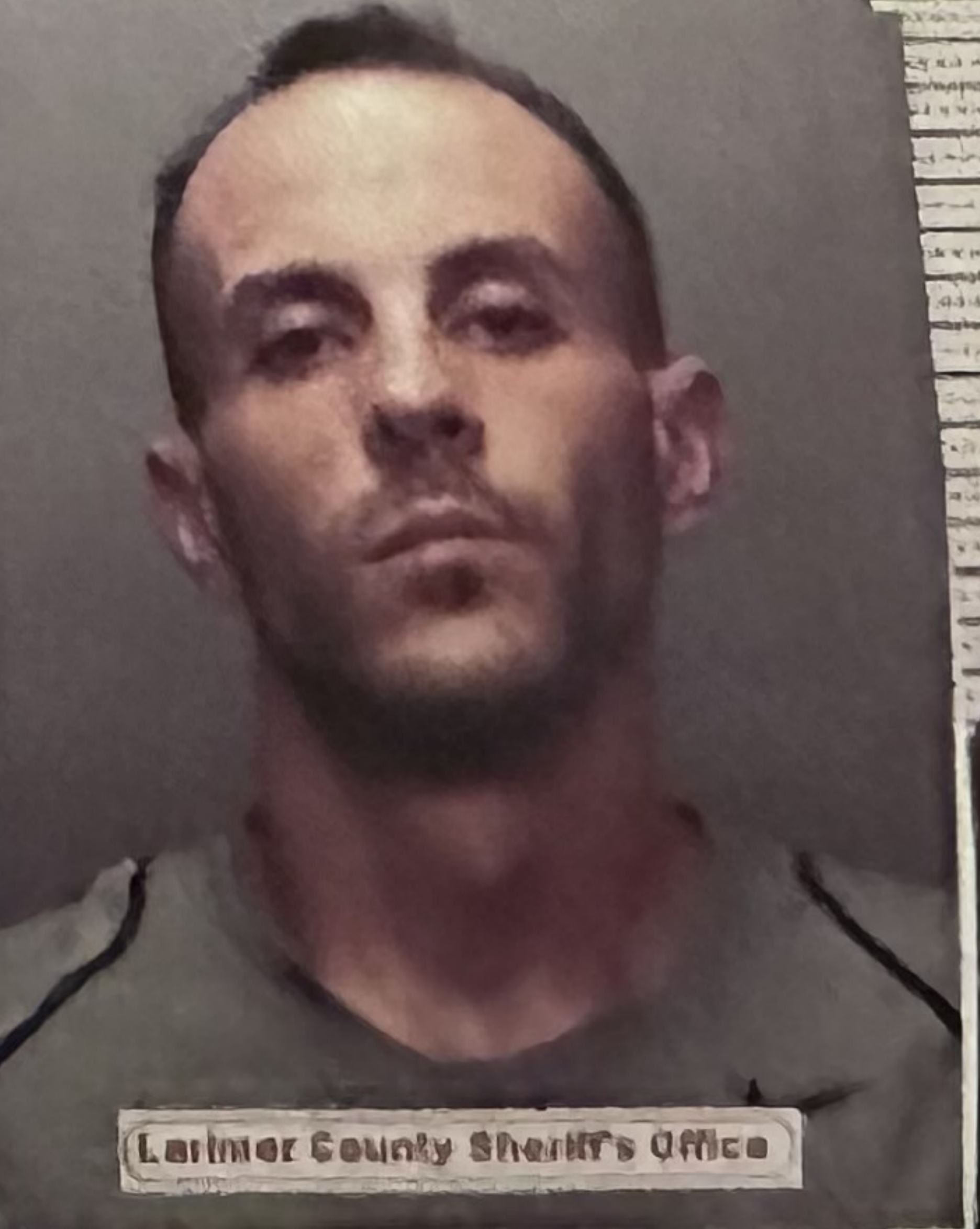
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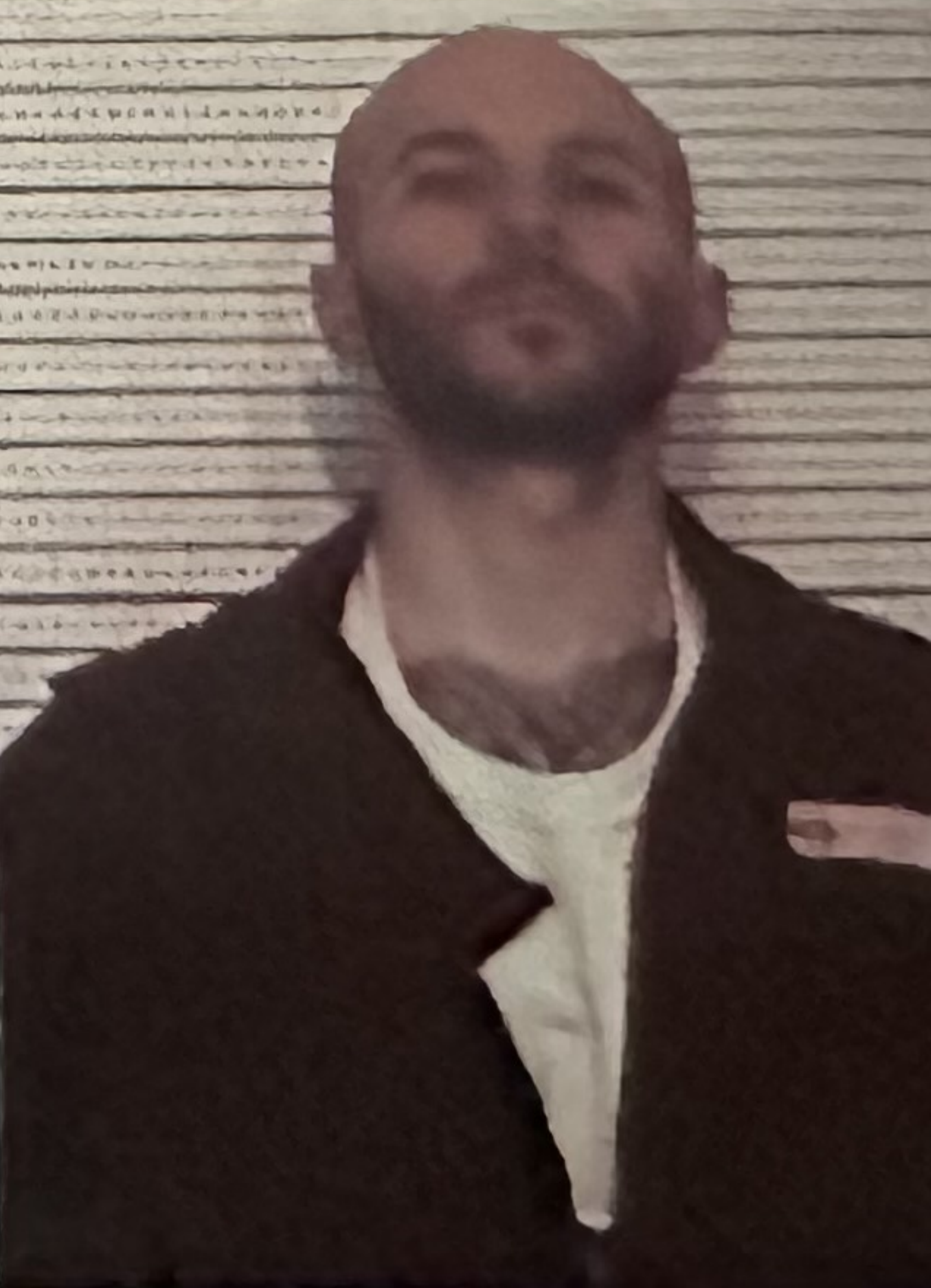
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# INSPIRE TO ASPIRE YOUTH EMPOWERMENT

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2 March 2024

## Members of the House Education Committee,

What does it feel like to go to bed hungry, to wake up in the middle of the night with stomach pangs only to be told to go to school still starving?

What's it like to listen to gunshots throughout the night, wondering if the next stray bullet will hit you or your mom?

How does it feel to see your mom passed out drunk on the couch with a cigarette in her hand that will burn yet another hole in the couch, maybe next time the cigarette will burn the entire house down.

What if you decided to run away, break into some cars and rob a little lady in order to take the hunger away and possibly sleep somewhere and not worry about the bullets steaming around the neighborhood?

And now, this 11-year-old kid gets caught! This was my life and when I thought things just couldn't get worse. My mom, who was my only family member died! How is this kid supposed to "focus on school?" Imagine if you were going through the same things and I told you to "focus on work."

I'm a statistical anomaly! With amazing mentors, people who truly cared about my future, some intrinsic motivation, and a lot of self-improvement I was able to NOT become a statistic. At least not the statistic I was destined to become. I was able to join the Air Force, mentor 1000s of youth, become an Author and Motivational Speaker and even retire to beautiful Greece at an early age.

But, I'm just that...a statistical anomaly and I don't want to be. I want my journey toward success to become the norm for our youth.

Of the 22,000 youth in Colorado that are considered justice-involved approximately 16,500 of our youth will NOT graduate from high school. That means that there's only a 25% chance of success. If we were a company tracking statistics, our CEO would have a heart-to-heart meeting with us along with a pink slip.

HB 24-1216, the Justice Engaged Student Bill of Rights is a huge step in the right direction for the 16,000+ youth that need us to be the CEOs that take the company to stardom, to help them become the amazing people they truly long to become. Without caring adults, training, resources, and mentors with lived experience, our youth are doomed to continue the numbers and statistics we currently see.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David M. Armstrong". The signature is written in a cursive style. A faint, light-colored watermark with the word "SENSEI" is visible in the background behind the signature.

David M. Armstrong