



Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

[Home](#)

[Crimes of Violence](#)

[Working With Communities](#)

[Fraud & Corruption](#)

[Search](#)

[Meet the D.A.](#)

[Top Documents](#)

[Victim Services](#)

[Consumer Alert](#)

[Bureau of Investigation](#)

[Criminal Justice Institute](#)

[Newsroom](#)

[Job Listings](#)

[Office Overview](#)

[History of the Office](#)

[Office Locations](#)

[Office Directory](#)

[FAQs](#)

[Board Correspondence](#)

[L.A. County Home Page](#)

[Contact Us](#)

2007 Media Archive Press Releases & News Advisories

December 2007

- [Former Catholic Priest Pleads Guilty to Child Molestation](#)
- [San Gabriel Valley Street Racer Charged with Four Felony Counts](#)
- [Alleged Tagger Charged in 2006 Valinda Murder](#)
- [Attn: Assignment & News Editors - LADA's 23rd Annual Holiday Giving Drive](#)
- [Alleged Union Rescue Mission Burglar Charged](#)
- [Attn: Assignment Editors - George Bravo Arrested](#)
- [Man Charged with Murder in Hollywood Traffic Collision That Killed Two](#)
- [Man Charged in Dismemberment Murder in Hollywood](#)
- [Man Convicted of Murder, Attempted Robbery in Sheriff's Deputy Killing](#)
- [Man Convicted of Murder in Body-In-Barrel Case](#)
- [Two Charged with Murder in Wilshire Area Shooting](#)
- [Los Angeles County District Attorney Spreads Holiday Cheer to Crime Victims, Families](#)
- [Felony Charges Filed Against Five Accused of Starting Corral Fire in Malibu](#)
- [Second Defendant Convicted in Body-In-Barrel Case](#)
- [LAPD Officer, Wife Charged with Grand Theft](#)
- [Man Sentenced for West Hills Double Murder](#)
- [Officers of Animal Rescue Operation Incarcerated on Cruelty Conviction](#)
- [Judge Orders Former Bell Gardens Official to Repay Entire Salary to City](#)
- [Parolee Charged in North Hills Sex Attacks](#)
- [Claremont Man Charged in Old Town Pasadena Shooting](#)

**November
2007**

- [Man Sentenced to Two Consecutive Life Terms for "Cold Case" Home Invasion Robbery/Rape](#)
 - [Former City Background Investigator Charged with Falsifying Documents of LAPD Candidates](#)
 - [Canoga Park Man Sentenced to 16 Years-To-Life Sentence for UCSB Student's Murder](#)
 - [Woman Charged with Capital Murder for Deaths of Pregnant Woman, Fetus](#)
 - [Alleged Gang Member Charged in North Hollywood Stabbing Case](#)
 - [Woodland Hills Man Convicted of Nine Felony Counts in Two Child Abduction Cases](#)
 - [Valley Heroes Honored by District Attorney](#)
 - [Brothers Charged in Fatal El Monte Street Racing Case](#)
 - [Buckweed Fire Statement](#)
 - [Two Teens Convicted of Murder, Attempted Murder in Hacienda Heights](#)
 - [Sheriff's Deputy Pleads in Physical Abuse Case](#)
 - [Excellence in Public Service, Humanitarian Spirit Recognized](#)
 - ["Escaping Justice" Fugitive to Stand Trial for Murder, Attempted Murder](#)
 - [Inglewood Man Convicted of Traffic Death of Cab Driver](#)
 - [Man Convicted of Murder in High-Speed Auto Crash That Killed Mother, Daughter](#)
 - [No Criminal Charges Against Mother in Knight High School Incident](#)
 - [Gang Member Convicted of Murder in 2005 Harbor Freeway Shooting](#)
 - [Transient Charged in Skid Row Kidnapping Case](#)
 - [Man Charged with Murder, Vehicular Manslaughter in Fatal Taxi Crash](#)
 - [Man Charged with Murders of Father, Sister; Bodies Dumped in Two Counties](#)
 - [Man Charged with Attempted Murder of a Peace Officer](#)
 - [Teens Charged in String of South Bay Commercial Burglaries](#)
 - [Former Sheriff's Deputy Charged in South Bay Internet Predator Sting](#)
 - [San Gabriel Valley Man Sentenced for Shooting a Reserve Officer, Estranged Wife](#)
 - [Man Charged in Theft of Puppies from La Mirada Pet Store](#)
 - [Second Wilshire Area Dognapper Pleads Guilty](#)
 - [Man Convicted of West Hills Double Murder](#)
 - [Teen Charged in Murder, Attempted Murder of Two Men](#)
 - [Man Charged with Arson in Connection with Multiple Fires in Lake Hughes](#)
 - [Woman Convicted for Death of Parking Attendant](#)
-

October 2007

- [ATTN: ASSIGNMENT EDITORS - John Steven Burgess](#)
- [Teen Charged as Adult in Santa Monica Home Burglary Rape Case](#)
- [Three Charged With Capital Murder In Fatal Shooting of Plastic Surgeon](#)
- [Man Charged After a DNA "Cold Hit" Convicted of 7-year-old Hawthorne Home Invasion Robbery/Rape](#)
- [Truck Driver Sentenced to Death for Murdering His Two Young Daughters](#)
- [Fashion Designer Indicted by Grand Jury](#)
- [Convict Charged In Manhattan Beach Rape Murder](#)
- [Man Charged In "Indiana Jones" Theft Case](#)
- [Man Charged With Felony Animal Cruelty in Alleged Attempt to Drown Dog](#)
- [Second Man Convicted of 1999 Murder of Woodland Hills Investor](#)
- [Statement on Release of LAPD Report on MacArthur Park Incident](#)
- [Man Charged With Hit-and-Run](#)
- [Man Charged With Murder In Fatal Street Crash](#)
- [Murder Charged In Alleged "Road Rage" Case](#)
- [Probation Officer Charged In Off-Duty Incident](#)
- [Alleged Street Gang Member Charged With Capital Murder](#)
- [Statement by District Attorney Steve Cooley Regarding Anna Nicole Smith Matter](#)
- [ATTN: NEWS & ASSIGNMENT EDITORS - RESCUE Youth Program Recognition Ceremony](#)
- [Two Municipal Engineers Held to Answer On Charges They Illegally Accessed the City's Traffic Computer](#)
- [D.A. Recognized for Work Against Animal Cruelty](#)
- [D.A., Courts Partner Graphic Anti-Drug Street Theater Aimed at Keeping Youngsters Off Drugs](#)
- [Management Firm Pays More Than a Half-Million Dollars in Consumer Action](#)
- [Canoga Park Man Convicted of Murdering UCSB Student](#)
- [ATTN: News & Assignment Editors - D.A., Court Partner in Graphic Street Theater Aimed at Keeping Youngsters Off Drugs](#)
- [Teen Charged with Murder in Fatal Street Racing Accident](#)
- [D.A., Court Partner in Graphic Street Theater Aimed at Keeping Youngsters Off Drugs](#)
- [Gang Leader Convicted in Capital, Multiple-Murder Case](#)
- [Sun Valley Man Charged with Arson](#)
- [Man Charged in Sexual Assault Murder of Elderly Woman](#)
- [Sheriff's Deputy Accused of Physical Abuse of Young Family Member](#)
- [Former "Prison Break" Actor Sentenced to Prison for Fatal Car Crash](#)
- [Orange County Man Charged in Pipe Bomb Explosion](#)

September 2007

- [Lancaster Man Charged with Child Molestation](#)
- [Two Women Charged with Unlicensed Practice of Medicine](#)
- [ATTN: News & Assignment Editors - Expanding Use of DNA Data Bank](#)
- [D.A. Thanks Governor for Signing DNA Testing Bill](#)
- [Teen Charged as Adult in Palmdale Schoolyard Attack](#)
- [Former Lawman Sentenced to 25 Years to Life In Prison for Murdering Estranged Wife](#)
- [Two Plead In Hazardous Waste Case](#)
- [Reputed Gang Member Charged with Capital Murder in Fatal Shooting of Baby](#)
- [Two Charged in Shooting of 9-Year-Old Girl](#)
- [Man Scheduled to Be Arraigned On Rape, Other Charges In Attacks In Santa Clarita](#)
- [Founder of Nonprofit Center Charged With Conspiracy, Embezzlement, Tax Fraud](#)
- [Judge Issues Preliminary Injunction Against Hawaiian Gardens Gang Members](#)
- [Man Charged With Robbing Reseda Couple](#)
- [Man Charged With Killing Girlfriend](#)
- [Statement by District Attorney Steve Cooley on the Phillip Spector Case](#)
- [Son Charges With Fatally Stabbing His Mother](#)
- [Former LAPD Officer Pleads Guilty In Unlawful Use of Force Case](#)
- [Former State Fire Captain Convicted of 23-year-old Torrance KFC Murder](#)

August 2007

- [Man Charged with Stabbing Police Dog](#)
- [Man Charged with Animal Cruelty After Dog Dies in Hot Car](#)
- [Former Bell Gardens Official Pleads to Conflict of Interest](#)
- [Attn: News & Assignment Editors - New Animal Cruelty Program Announced](#)
- [District Attorney Announces Creation of Animal Cruelty Case Coordinator](#)
- [Woman Charged with Murdering Husband, Sons](#)
- [Hawaiian Garden Gang Members Put On Notice](#)
- [Four Charged in Fatal Shooting of Pico Rivera Woman](#)
- [Home Depot Agrees to Pay \\$9.9 Million in Landmark California Civil Case](#)
- [Former Sheriff's Deputy Convicted of 16-Year-Old "No Body" Murder of Estranged Wife](#)
- [Teacher Charged with Sexually Assaulting Children](#)
- [Lindsay Lohan Charged with DUI, Other Charges in Two Separate Incidents](#)
- [Reputed Gang Member Charged with Murder](#)
- [Suspected Gang Member Charged with Murder in Fatal Liquor Store Shooting](#)
- [Man Pleads No Contest in Fatal PCH Collision](#)
- [Man Charged with Capital Murder in Fatal Stabbing of Woman in Glendale](#)

**July
2007**

- [Two Charged in Hacienda Heights Rock-Throwing Incidents](#)
- [D.A. Statement on Archdiocese Settlement](#)
- [Former Priest Arrested, Charged with Sexual Molestation](#)

**June
2007**

- [Man Charged with Murder in Hollywood Hills](#)
- [Insurance Adjuster Pleads in Fraud Case](#)
- [Suspected Bank Robber Charged](#)
- [Former Alhambra Council Member, Business Partner Plead Guilty in Bribery Case](#)
- [Korean Attorney Pleads Guilty, Sentenced to Four Years in State Prison in Two Cases](#)
- [Man Charged in Fatal Bat Attack](#)
- [Former City Planning Commissioner Charged](#)
- [Attorney Found Guilty of Embezzling from 89-Year-Old Victim](#)
- [Lynwood Pet Shop Owner Indicted on Charges of Animal Cruelty](#)
- [Former Police Officer Arrested, Charged with Rape, Assault](#)
- [Gardena Couple Charged with Child Abuse](#)
- [Response of the District Attorney's Office Regarding the Los Angeles City Attorney](#)
- [High School Football Star Convicted of First-Degree Murder in Drive-By Shooting](#)

**May
2007**

- [Childcare Scam Busted](#)
- [Remarks by Los Angeles County District Attorney Steve Cooley to the Board of Supervisors Budget Hearing](#)
- [Man Sentenced in Attack on Radio Reporter](#)
- [Anti-Gang Activist Pleads in Drug Possession Case](#)
- [Attn: Assignment & News Editors Fugitive Alvaro Luna Jara Extradited](#)
- [Third Fugitive Returned from Mexico to Face Murder Charge](#)
- [Couple Charged in Fatal Stabbing in Hollywood](#)
- [Former "Prison Break" Actor Pleads Guilty in Fatal Car Crash](#)
- [Attn: News & Assignment Editors - Environmental Scholarship Awards](#)
- [School Police Officer Charged with Sexual Assault of a Woman During a Traffic Stop](#)
- [District Attorney Presents Environmental Scholarships](#)
- [Former Los Angeles City Commissioner Faces New Charge](#)

**April
2007**

- [Woman Named in Embezzlement Case Pleads Guilty to Perjury, Forgery](#)
- [Jury Recommends Death for Gang Member Convicted of Murdering Sheriff's Deputy](#)
- [Man Charged with Gross Vehicular Manslaughter in Fatal PCH Collision](#)
- [Snoop Dogg Charged with Gun Possession](#)
- [LAPD Detective Accused of Workers Compensation Fraud](#)
- [Snoop Dogg Pleads No Contest to Felony Charges; Sentenced](#)
- [Part-Time Prep School Employee Pleads Guilty to Child Molestation](#)
- [Current and Former Lynwood Council Members Charged with Misappropriating More than \\$100,000 in Taxpayer Money](#)
- [Bus Driver Charged in Alleged Sexual Assault](#)
- [Long Beach Man Charged with Murdering 2-Year-Old Boy](#)
- [Gang Member Sentenced to Life Term for Murdering Iraqi War Veteran](#)
- [Parolee Sentenced to Life in Prison for Beverly Hills Murder, Attempted Murder](#)
- [Former City of Los Angeles Workers Charged in Alleged Illegal Dumping Scheme](#)
- [Three Reputed Gang Members Charged With Murder In Fatal Shooting of Three South Los Angeles Residents](#)
- [Criminal Threat, Assault With Firearm Charges Filed Against USC Student](#)
- [Chester Turner Convicted of Serial Murders of 10 Women, One Fetus](#)
- [East L.A. Student Union President Charged with Selling Assault Weapons](#)

**March
2007**

- [Former Business Partner Goes to Prison for Life for Mickey Thompson Murders](#)
- [Fugitive Pleads Guilty to Murdering Deputy David March; Sentenced to Prison for Life Without Parole](#)
- [LAPD Officer Charged with Unlawful Use of Force](#)
- [Two Charged in Torrance Bank Robberies](#)
- [Two Arrested, Charged in UCLA Willard-Body Case](#)
- [Anti-Gang Officer Charged with Drug Possession](#)
- ["Prison Break" Actor Charged in Fatal Car Crash](#)
- [Father, Son Charged with Sexual Molestation](#)
- [Man Convicted in Tarzana Murder](#)
- [Gang Member Sentenced to 40-Years-to-Life in Prison for Shooting at LAPD Officers](#)
- [Two Charged in Wilshire Area Dognapping Case](#)
- [Two Charged in Chinatown Lottery Ticket Theft](#)
- [Gang Member Convicted of Murdering Iraqi War Veteran](#)
- [Man Charged in 34-Year-Old Murder](#)
- [Hawaiian Gardens Gang Member Convicted of Murdering Sheriff's Deputy](#)
- ["60 Freeway Slayer" Formally Sentenced to Death](#)
- [Women Charged in Altadena Murder; Child Abduction](#)
- [Convicted Sex Offender Pleads Guilty to Sexually Molesting Six Victims](#)
- [ATTN: Assignment & News Editors - Annual Courageous Citizen](#)

[Awards](#)

- [District Attorney Honors Courageous Citizens](#)
- [Jury Convicts Bell Gardens Council Member of Filing a False Police Report](#)
- [Gang Member Convicted of Murdering 14-Year-Old Bicyclist](#)
- [Teen Charged with Murder in School Slaying](#)
- [Teacher Charged with Child Molestation of Two Teenage Girls](#)
- [Attn Assignment Editors: Mexico Extradites Long Sought Convicted Criminal](#)
- [D.A.'s Website Instrumental in Successful Mexican Extradition of Man Convicted of Trying to Kill His Estranged Wife & Suspected of Murdering Her Father](#)

**February
2007**

- [Gene Therapy Pioneer Sentenced to 14 Years in Prison for Child Molestation](#)
- [Extradition Sought for Woman and Her Mother Charged in Welfare Fraud Case](#)
- [Pair Charged with Impersonating an Officer and Robbery](#)
- [ATTN: News & Assignment Editors Press Availability Anti-Truancy Symposium](#)
- [Former King/Drew Radiologist Pleads Guilty to Tax Evasion](#)
- [Grandson Sentenced 25-Years-To-Life for Grandmother's Murder](#)
- [Richie Charged with Misdemeanor DUI](#)
- [Attn: Assignment & News Editors - Pasadena Courageous Citizen Awards](#)
- [District Attorney Honors Courageous Citizens](#)
- [Three Charged in Alleged Plot to Prevent Testimony of Rape Victim Ordered to Stand Trial](#)
- [Five Alleged Gang Members Charged with Murdering Witness in Harbor Gateway Killing](#)
- [Former Chatsworth Teacher Sentenced to 10-Year Prison Term](#)
- [Attorney Sentenced in Theft Case](#)
- [High School Teacher Charged with Child Molestation](#)
- [Mother Sentenced to Prison in Toddler's Murder, Torture](#)
- [Man Sentenced to 15-Year-To-Life Term in Fatal Traffic Collision](#)

**January
2007**

- [Jury Recommends Death for Convicted "60 Freeway Slayer"](#)
- [Man Charged with Murder in New Year's Eve Attack](#)
- [Former Business Partner Convicted of 1988 Mickey Thompson Murders](#)
- [Statement By District Attorney Steve Cooley on Goodwin Verdict](#)
- [Two City Engineers Charged with Allegedly Hacking Into City's Traffic Computer](#)
- [More Than 85 Arrested as Part of Auto Insurance Fraud Crackdown](#)
- [D.A. Statement on Garcia Extradition from Mexico](#)
- [Attn: News & Assignment Editors - Insurance Fraud Press Conference](#)
- [Dist. Atty's Office, Calif. Dept. of Insurance Discuss "Operation Store Front" as Part of Auto Insurance Fraud Crackdown](#)
- [Man Found Guilty of Rape in 16-Year-Old Case to be Sentenced Tuesday; Facing Up to 1,000 Years in Prison](#)

- [Jury Recommends Second Death Sentence in Jailhouse Killing Case](#)
- [Two Charged with Murder at Hollywood Nightclub](#)

Please read our [Privacy Policy](#).

Site updated: 05 Jan 2010

© 1994-2012 Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office. All Rights Reserved.



[Home](#)

[Crimes of Violence](#)

[Working With Communities](#)

[Fraud & Corruption](#)

[Search](#)

[Meet the D.A.](#)

[Top Documents](#)

[Victim Services](#)

[Consumer Alert](#)

[Bureau of Investigation](#)

[Criminal Justice Institute](#)

[Newsroom](#)

[Job Listings](#)

[Office Overview](#)

[History of the Office](#)

[Office Locations](#)

[Office Directory](#)

[FAQs](#)

[Board Correspondence](#)

[L.A. County Home Page](#)

[Contact Us](#)

Former Catholic Priest Pleads Guilty to Child Molestation

December 3, 2007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contacts: [Joe Scott](#), Director of Communications

[Sandi Gibbons](#), Public Information Officer

[Jane Robison](#), News Secretary

(213) 974-3525

LOS ANGELES – Michael Stephen Baker, a former Catholic priest, was sentenced to state prison today after pleading guilty to molesting two adolescent boys, the District Attorney's Office announced.

Baker, 59, entered the plea after a lengthy hearing in which several victims of sex abuse by priests and former priests addressed the court. The two victims in the case to which Baker pleaded were not in court. However, at least one former uncharged victim as well as the parents of another uncharged victim were present.

Under the terms of a plea agreement, Baker was sentenced to 10 years and four months in state prison by Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Curtis Rappe. He also was ordered to pay \$20,000 in restitution to the second of the two victims for mental health counseling, in addition to paying other fines and fees totaling \$220. Another \$200 fine was stayed pending completion of his prison term.

Originally, Baker was charged in 2003 with multiple counts of child molestation. That case, along with nearly a dozen others in Los Angeles County, was overturned by the U.S. Supreme Court the same year on statute of limitations grounds.

The current case against Baker, filed in 2006 and amended earlier this year, involved two new victims who were molested between 1994 and 1998 – within the Supreme Court guidelines. He is among several priests or former priests who have been charged, tried and convicted.

As Deputy District Attorney Marc Beaart was explaining the terms of the plea agreement to Baker in open court, he told the bearded defendant that when he gets out of prison he must register yearly as a sex offender the rest of his

life. One of the people giving a victim impact statement prior to sentencing requested that the Court order Baker to wear an electronic tracking device upon being released from prison.

sg/smd

Please read our [Privacy Policy](#).

© 1994-2012 Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office. All Rights Reserved.



Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

Home

Crimes of Violence

Working With Communities

Fraud & Corruption

Search

Meet the D.A.

Top Documents

Victim Services

Consumer Alert

Bureau of Investigation

Criminal Justice Institute

Newsroom

Job Listings

Office Overview

History of the Office

Office Locations

Office Directory

FAQs

Board Correspondence

L.A. County Home Page

Contact Us

San Gabriel Valley Street Racer Charged with Four Felony Counts

December 4, 2007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contacts: [Joe Scott](#), Director of Communications

[Sandi Gibbons](#), Public Information Officer

[Jane Robison](#), News Secretary

(213) 974-3525

PASADENA – A petition was filed today against a 17-year-old Rosemead girl alleging four felony counts for a police pursuit and vehicular collision that left one person dead, the District Attorney's Office announced.

On Dec. 2, just after midnight, the minor (dob 05-08-90) allegedly led San Gabriel Police on a high speed pursuit after she was spotted racing another vehicle. To evade police, the girl ran a red light in excess of 80 miles per hour causing a traffic accident that killed 19-year-old Angela My Chung, authorities said. Two others were injured in the collision, including the alleged street racer who sustained minor injuries.

She is charged in case No. GJ25737 with vehicular manslaughter with gross negligence, evading an officer causing death, evading an officer causing injury, reckless driving causing specified injury and speed contest causing injury, a misdemeanor.

The minor is being detained at Eastlake Juvenile Hall, 1605 Eastlake Ave., Los Angeles. Her arraignment is scheduled for Dec. 5 in Dept. 271.

smd

Please read our [Privacy Policy](#).

© 1994-2012 Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office. All Rights Reserved.



Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

[Home](#)

[Crimes of Violence](#)

[Working With Communities](#)

[Fraud & Corruption](#)

[Search](#)

[Meet the D.A.](#)

[Top Documents](#)

[Victim Services](#)

[Consumer Alert](#)

[Bureau of Investigation](#)

[Criminal Justice Institute](#)

[Newsroom](#)

[Job Listings](#)

[Office Overview](#)

[History of the Office](#)

[Office Locations](#)

[Office Directory](#)

[FAQs](#)

[Board Correspondence](#)

[L.A. County Home Page](#)

[Contact Us](#)

Alleged Tagger Charged in 2006 Valinda Murder

December 6, 2007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contacts: [Joe Scott](#), Director of Communications

[Sandi Gibbons](#), Public Information Officer

[Jane Robison](#), News Secretary

(213) 974-3525

WEST COVINA – A 20-year-old man was charged today with murder in connection with last year's fatal shooting of a Valinda man who was trying to stop taggers in his neighborhood.

Anthony Alex Castillo (dob 11-3-1987) appeared in court in West Covina this afternoon, but his arraignment was put over until Dec. 19 in Department 8, Citrus Superior Court. He is being held on \$1 million bail.

Castillo is accused in the murder of Robert Whitehead, 44, killed on March 9, 2006, when he confronted taggers in his Moccasin Street neighborhood. A second suspect is being sought and a third has died since the shooting, authorities said.

It was the investigation into the Whitehead murder that led Sheriff's investigators to an unrelated conspiracy-to-commit-murder plot involving the Mexican Mafia. Six people, including three women, were charged in that case. Their case is being tried in downtown Los Angeles.

Castillo, also of Valinda, was arrested on Tuesday and remains in custody. He is charged in case No. KA081374 with one count each of murder, carrying a concealed firearm, carrying a loaded firearm, transportation of marijuana and having a concealed firearm on his person. All are felonies.

The complaint also alleged the defendant committed the crimes while an active participant in a street gang, that a principal fired a handgun that killed Whitehead and that the killing was done as part of street gang activity.

If convicted, the defendant faces a maximum sentence of life in prison with the possibility of parole.

Deputy District Attorney Ross Alari of the Hardcore Gang Division is

prosecuting the case.

sg

Please read our [Privacy Policy](#).

© 1994-2012 Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office. All Rights Reserved.



Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

Home

Crimes of Violence

Working With Communities

Fraud & Corruption

Search

Meet the D.A.

Top Documents

Victim Services

Consumer Alert

Bureau of Investigation

Criminal Justice Institute

Newsroom

Job Listings

Office Overview

History of the Office

Office Locations

Office Directory

FAQs

Board Correspondence

L.A. County Home Page

Contact Us

Attn: Assignment & News Editors Los Angeles County District Attorney's 23rd Annual Holiday Giving Drive

December 6, 2007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contacts: [Joe Scott](#), Director of Communications

[Sandi Gibbons](#), Public Information Officer

[Jane Robison](#), News Secretary

(213) 974-3525

LOS ANGELES – Los Angeles County District Attorney Steve Cooley will distribute holiday gifts to victims of crime and their families on Thursday, Dec. 13, at 10:30 a.m. during the District Attorney's 23rd Annual Holiday Giving Drive.

The event will be held in the District Attorney's Conference Room on the 18th Floor of the Clara Shortridge Foltz Criminal Justice Center, 210 West Temple Street, Los Angeles, 90012.

Gift recipients – including a woman beaten in a hate-crime attack and her five children and two victims of family violence and their children – will be among hundreds of crime victims and family members to benefit from this year's giving drive.

Members of the District Attorney's staff raised nearly \$20,000 this year to buy toys and food for families they have encountered through the criminal justice system. Families are nominated by members of the District Attorney's staff. D. A. investigators deliver the gifts to more than 100 homes throughout Los Angeles County.

CONTACT: Shiara M. Dávila at (213) 974-3528 or Narine Zardarian at (213) 974-7401.

smd

Please read our [Privacy Policy](#).

© 1994-2012 Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office. All Rights Reserved.



Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

[Home](#)

[Crimes of Violence](#)

[Working With Communities](#)

[Fraud & Corruption](#)

[Search](#)

[Meet the D.A.](#)

[Top Documents](#)

[Victim Services](#)

[Consumer Alert](#)

[Bureau of Investigation](#)

[Criminal Justice Institute](#)

[Newsroom](#)

[Job Listings](#)

[Office Overview](#)

[History of the Office](#)

[Office Locations](#)

[Office Directory](#)

[FAQs](#)

[Board Correspondence](#)

[L.A. County Home Page](#)

[Contact Us](#)

Alleged Union Rescue Mission Burglar Charged

December 7, 2007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contacts: [Joe Scott](#), Director of Communications

[Sandi Gibbons](#), Public Information Officer

[Jane Robison](#), News Secretary

(213) 974-3525

LOS ANGELES – A 44-year-old man accused of stealing \$100,000 from the Union Rescue Mission's safe, then setting a fire to cover up the crime, was scheduled to be arraigned this afternoon in Los Angeles Superior Court, the District Attorney announced.

Alvin Synder (dob 3-22-63), also known as Alvin Snyder, was charged in case No. BA333169 with first-degree burglary, arson of an inhabited structure and grand theft of personal property.

Snyder allegedly broke into a safe in the cashier's office of the Rescue Mission and took about \$100,000 in cash. A fire was set in a backroom of the office to destroy evidence, according Los Angeles Police Department authorities. The defendant was arrested on Dec. 3.

The Rescue Mission, a homeless shelter, temporary residence and church for hundreds of individuals and families, houses a safe where clients deposit money and jewelry for safekeeping. The Rescue Mission accommodates up to 800 people on a given night.

Bail was recommended at \$365,000. Arraignment is scheduled for Dept. 30 of Los Angeles Superior Court.

smd

Please read our [Privacy Policy](#).

© 1994-2012 Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office. All Rights Reserved.



Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

Home

Crimes of Violence

Working With Communities

Fraud & Corruption

Search

Meet the D.A.

Top Documents

Victim Services

Consumer Alert

Bureau of Investigation

Criminal Justice Institute

Newsroom

Job Listings

Office Overview

History of the Office

Office Locations

Office Directory

FAQs

Board Correspondence

L.A. County Home Page

Contact Us

Attn: Assignment Editors George Bravo Arrested

December 7, 2007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contacts: [Joe Scott](#), Director of Communications

[Sandi Gibbons](#), Public Information Officer

[Jane Robison](#), News Secretary

(213) 974-3525

George Bravo, 40, who was among six people charged yesterday in a Mexican Mafia conspiracy-to-murder case, was arrested early today in Corona. He is expected to appear for arraignment this afternoon in Los Angeles Superior Court Department 30, fifth floor, Criminal Justice Center, 210 W. Temple St. The case number is BA333142 and the prosecutor is Deputy District Attorney Deborah Brazil of the Hardcore Gang Division. Contact: Sandi Gibbons or Shiara Davila, 974-3525.

sg

Please read our [Privacy Policy](#).

© 1994-2012 Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office. All Rights Reserved.



[Home](#)

[Crimes of Violence](#)

[Working With Communities](#)

[Fraud & Corruption](#)

[Search](#)

[Meet the D.A.](#)

[Top Documents](#)

[Victim Services](#)

[Consumer Alert](#)

[Bureau of Investigation](#)

[Criminal Justice Institute](#)

[Newsroom](#)

[Job Listings](#)

[Office Overview](#)

[History of the Office](#)

[Office Locations](#)

[Office Directory](#)

[FAQs](#)

[Board Correspondence](#)

[L.A. County Home Page](#)

[Contact Us](#)

Los Angeles County District Attorney Spreads Holiday Cheer to Crime Victims, Families

December 12, 2007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contacts: [Joe Scott](#), Director of Communications

[Sandi Gibbons](#), Public Information Officer

[Jane Robison](#), News Secretary

(213) 974-3525

LOS ANGELES – In January, Latera Palmer of Carson was brutally beaten and robbed by three female gang members as she was on her way home from the grocery store. Palmer, who has five children under age 10, suffered serious head injuries and crippling psychological trauma.

This holiday season, Los Angeles County District Attorney Steve Cooley will reach out to the Palmer family and nearly 200 other families devastated by crime during the District Attorney's 23rd Annual Holiday Giving Drive. Some 450 children will be among those to benefit from this year's gift giving drive.

The event will be held Thursday, Dec. 13, at 10:30 a.m. in the District Attorney's Conference Room on the 18th Floor of the Clara Shortridge Foltz Criminal Justice Center, 210 West Temple Street, Los Angeles.

"The District Attorney's Office seeks justice for these victims in a court of law," Cooley said. "But, during this time of year, we also want to help them by spreading holiday cheer and reminding them that they are not alone."

All three gang members who attacked Palmer were convicted. Palmer, her partner, and children – Asia, 3, Deidrick, 4, Alizay, 5, and La Shawn and Alika, both 8 – will attend the news conference. Two victims of family violence and their children also will be present.

Members of the District Attorney's staff raised more than \$20,000 this year to buy toys and food for families they have encountered through the criminal justice system. Families are nominated by members of the District Attorney's staff. D.A. investigators deliver the gifts to homes throughout Los Angeles County.

smd

Please read our [Privacy Policy](#).

© 1994-2012 Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office. All Rights Reserved.



Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

[Home](#)

[Crimes of Violence](#)

[Working With Communities](#)

[Fraud & Corruption](#)

[Search](#)

[Meet the D.A.](#)

[Top Documents](#)

[Victim Services](#)

[Consumer Alert](#)

[Bureau of Investigation](#)

[Criminal Justice Institute](#)

[Newsroom](#)

[Job Listings](#)

[Office Overview](#)

[History of the Office](#)

[Office Locations](#)

[Office Directory](#)

[FAQs](#)

[Board Correspondence](#)

[L.A. County Home Page](#)

[Contact Us](#)

Man Charged in Dismemberment Murder in Hollywood

December 11, 2007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contacts: [Joe Scott](#), Director of Communications

[Sandi Gibbons](#), Public Information Officer

[Jane Robison](#), News Secretary

(213) 974-3525

LOS ANGELES – A 21-year-old parolee was charged with murder today in the dismemberment killing of another man whose body parts were found in Hollywood dumpsters near where the crime occurred.

Frank Ruiz (dob 1-19-1986) was scheduled to appear for arraignment this afternoon in Los Angeles Superior Court Department 30, fifth floor, Criminal Justice Center. He has been in custody since his arrest on Sunday.

The defendant was charged in case No. BA333429 with one count of murder in the killing of 47-year-old Patrick Moore around midnight Dec. 5 in Ruiz's room at 1745 N. Western Ave. The complaint alleged the defendant used a knife to commit the crime. It also alleged a 2004 burglary conviction (GA058699) that resulted in a two-year prison term.

Authorities said the killing was discovered after a cleaning woman found what appeared to be meat in plastic shopping bags in Ruiz's room. He was told by the manager to remove the meat, which was thrown into a dumpster at a nearby liquor store, police said.

Police were summoned and when the blood in Ruiz's room was tested, the dumpster was examined. Body parts were found in that dumpster as well as a second dumpster near a drug store.

Bail was recommended at \$1 million for the defendant, who faces a life in prison with the possibility of parole if convicted.

The case was filed by Deputy District Attorney Deborah A. Passow, assistant head of the Central Complaints Division. A trial prosecutor has not yet been assigned.

sg

Please read our [Privacy Policy](#).

© 1994-2012 Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office. All Rights Reserved.



[Home](#)

[Crimes of Violence](#)

[Working With Communities](#)

[Fraud & Corruption](#)

[Search](#)

[Meet the D.A.](#)

[Top Documents](#)

[Victim Services](#)

[Consumer Alert](#)

[Bureau of Investigation](#)

[Criminal Justice Institute](#)

[Newsroom](#)

[Job Listings](#)

[Office Overview](#)

[History of the Office](#)

[Office Locations](#)

[Office Directory](#)

[FAQs](#)

[Board Correspondence](#)

[L.A. County Home Page](#)

[Contact Us](#)

Man Convicted of Murder, Attempted Robbery in Sheriff's Deputy Killing

December 11, 2007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contacts: [Joe Scott](#), Director of Communications

[Sandi Gibbons](#), Public Information Officer

[Jane Robison](#), News Secretary

(213) 974-3525

LONG BEACH – A 21-year-old man was convicted of murder today in connection with the killing last year of off-duty Sheriff's Deputy Maria Cecilia Rosa, who was gunned down in Long Beach during an attempted robbery. A second defendant in the case faces a separate trial next year.

Deputy District Attorney Karen Thorp, who with Deputy District Attorney Patrick Connolly prosecuted Justin Ashley Flint, said jurors deliberated just over two days before returning verdicts. Flint was convicted of one count each of first-degree murder and attempted robbery. The jury found that a principal was armed during the robbery, but found not true the special circumstance against Flint.

Flint is scheduled to be sentenced on Jan 15 by Long Beach Superior Court Judge Joan Comparat-Cassani, who presided over the trial. He faces a prison sentence of 26 years and eight months to life.

The alleged shooter, 23-year-old Frank Christopher Gonzalez, is being tried separately for Deputy Rosa's murder. His trial is scheduled for March 19. Prosecutors are seeking the death penalty.

Deputy Rosa was killed on March 28, 2006, when she walked out of a friend's home in Long Beach. It was a few minutes before 6 a.m. and the deputy was on her way to work at the Inmate Reception Center at the Men's Central Jail in Los Angeles.

Prosecutors said she walked to her car in the driveway and opened the trunk. As she did, the defendants – both on bicycles – rode up and confronted her, they said. She tried to pull her service weapon, prosecutors said, but was shot to death with a .22-caliber revolver allegedly fired by Gonzalez. She was shot twice and died within minutes despite attempts by

good Samaritans and paramedics to revive her.

A break in the case for Long Beach police investigators came after examination of DNA found on the handlebar grip of a bicycle left at the scene, prosecutors said. Gonzalez and Flint, both by this time in state prison on convictions of other crimes, were charged in September 2006.

sg

Please read our [Privacy Policy](#).

© 1994-2012 Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office. All Rights Reserved.



Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

Home

Crimes of Violence

Working With Communities

Fraud & Corruption

Search

Meet the D.A.

Top Documents

Victim Services

Consumer Alert

Bureau of Investigation

Criminal Justice Institute

Newsroom

Job Listings

Office Overview

History of the Office

Office Locations

Office Directory

FAQs

Board Correspondence

L.A. County Home Page

Contact Us

Man Convicted of Murder in Body-In-Barrel Case

December 11, 2007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contacts: [Joe Scott](#), Director of Communications

[Sandi Gibbons](#), Public Information Officer

[Jane Robison](#), News Secretary

(213) 974-3525

LOS ANGELES – A North Hollywood man accused in the killing of a victim whose body was found in a Van Nuys storage shed more than three years ago was convicted today of murder and other felony crimes. A separate jury continues to deliberate on the fate of a co-defendant.

The Los Angeles Superior Court jury deliberating the case of David Michael Steinberg, 40, was out about a week before returning verdicts this afternoon. Steinberg was convicted of one count of first-degree murder, two counts of attempted murder, three counts of assault with a semiautomatic weapon and one count of possession of a firearm by a felon. The jury found true the special circumstance of lying in wait, but deadlocked on the special circumstance of murder of a witness. It also found true the various armed allegations on the various felony charges.

Jurors found the defendant not guilty of a single count of making criminal threats.

Deputy District Attorney Stephanie Sparagna, who prosecuted the case with Deputy District Attorney Ann Ambrose, said Steinberg faces two consecutive life terms plus life in prison without the possibility of parole. He is scheduled to appear for sentencing by Superior Court Judge Michael Pastor on Feb. 5.

The second jury is deliberating the case of co-defendant Jeffrey Lawrence Weaver, 37.

Steinberg and Weaver were accused of murdering 37-year-old Christopher Walsh of Chatsworth sometime between June 24 and June 30, 2003. Walsh's body, swathed in plastic and duct tape, was found in a storage container in Van Nuys on July 2, 2003. He had been shot in the head.

The defendants were charged in February 2004. Two other men were charged with being accessories. The two men pleaded and testified at the trial.

sg

Please read our [Privacy Policy](#).

© 1994-2012 Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office. All Rights Reserved.



[Home](#)

[Crimes of Violence](#)

[Working With Communities](#)

[Fraud & Corruption](#)

[Search](#)

[Meet the D.A.](#)

[Top Documents](#)

[Victim Services](#)

[Consumer Alert](#)

[Bureau of Investigation](#)

[Criminal Justice Institute](#)

[Newsroom](#)

[Job Listings](#)

[Office Overview](#)

[History of the Office](#)

[Office Locations](#)

[Office Directory](#)

[FAQs](#)

[Board Correspondence](#)

[L.A. County Home Page](#)

[Contact Us](#)

Two Charged with Murder in Wilshire Area Shooting

December 12, 2007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contacts: [Joe Scott](#), Director of Communications

[Sandi Gibbons](#), Public Information Officer

[Jane Robison](#), News Secretary

(213) 974-3525

LOS ANGELES – Two men were charged today with murder in connection with the fatal shooting earlier this week of a young woman. One of the men, the alleged shooter, was charged with capital murder because the woman was killed by shots fired from a motor vehicle.

Both defendants – 21-year-old Amilcar Jose Romero and 31-year-old Juan Carlos Gutierrez – were scheduled to appear for arraignment later today in Los Angeles Superior Court. Bail for Romero was recommended at \$4 million. Gutierrez, who faces the capital murder charge, will be held without bail.

No charges were filed against five others pending further investigation. All but one, a parolee who was wearing a tracking device that led police to the defendants, are expected to be released. Two are minors – 16 and 17 years old.

Authorities said Romero was driving an SUV in the Wilshire Area on Monday when the shooting occurred along Venice Boulevard near Winton Place. The victim was with two men who authorities said first exchanged hand signs and then words with a passenger of the SUV. The front seat passenger – alleged in the complaint to be Gutierrez – pulled a handgun and fired, killing 20-year-old Nelly Nergara and injuring one of the two men with her. He reportedly remains hospitalized. The other man was not hit by the gunfire.

Romero and Gutierrez were charged in case No. BA333493 with one count of murder and two counts of attempted murder. Principal armed and personal use of a handgun allegations were filed against both, as well as an allegation that one of the attempted murder victims suffered great bodily injury. The complaint also alleged that it was a street gang shooting and the murder was committed by someone shooting from a motor vehicle. The last allegation

applies only to Gutierrez, who allegedly fired the shots.

Prosecutors declined filing charges against the three other men and two teenage boys, noting that there was insufficient evidence to show a conspiracy or that they aided or abetted the shooting. Los Angeles police detectives are continuing the investigation, however, and if new evidence is found, it will be evaluated by the District Attorney's office.

If convicted, Romero faces several life sentences with the possibility of parole. A decision on whether to seek the death sentence or life without parole for Gutierrez will be made by the District Attorney's office as the case moves closer to trial.

The case has not yet been assigned to a trial prosecutor. It was filed by Assistant Head Deputy District Attorney Peter Cagney of the Hardcore Gang Division.

Los Angeles police announced yesterday that one of the men not charged was wearing a Global Positioning Satellite (GPS) device. The man, a parolee who was fitted with the device when he was released from prison, was in the SUV, which was tracked to a home in Compton shortly after the shooting.

sg

Please read our [Privacy Policy](#).

© 1994-2012 Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office. All Rights Reserved.



[Home](#)

[Crimes of Violence](#)

[Working With Communities](#)

[Fraud & Corruption](#)

[Search](#)

[Meet the D.A.](#)

[Top Documents](#)

[Victim Services](#)

[Consumer Alert](#)

[Bureau of Investigation](#)

[Criminal Justice Institute](#)

[Newsroom](#)

[Job Listings](#)

[Office Overview](#)

[History of the Office](#)

[Office Locations](#)

[Office Directory](#)

[FAQs](#)

[Board Correspondence](#)

[L.A. County Home Page](#)

[Contact Us](#)

Los Angeles County District Attorney Spreads Holiday Cheer to Crime Victims, Families

December 12, 2007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contacts: [Joe Scott](#), Director of Communications

[Sandi Gibbons](#), Public Information Officer

[Jane Robison](#), News Secretary

(213) 974-3525

LOS ANGELES – In January, Latera Palmer of Carson was brutally beaten and robbed by three female gang members as she was on her way home from the grocery store. Palmer, who has five children under age 10, suffered serious head injuries and crippling psychological trauma.

This holiday season, Los Angeles County District Attorney Steve Cooley will reach out to the Palmer family and nearly 200 other families devastated by crime during the District Attorney's 23rd Annual Holiday Giving Drive. Some 450 children will be among those to benefit from this year's gift giving drive.

The event will be held Thursday, Dec. 13, at 10:30 a.m. in the District Attorney's Conference Room on the 18th Floor of the Clara Shortridge Foltz Criminal Justice Center, 210 West Temple Street, Los Angeles.

"The District Attorney's Office seeks justice for these victims in a court of law," Cooley said. "But, during this time of year, we also want to help them by spreading holiday cheer and reminding them that they are not alone."

All three gang members who attacked Palmer were convicted. Palmer, her partner, and children – Asia, 3, Deidrick, 4, Alizay, 5, and La Shawn and Alika, both 8 – will attend the news conference. Two victims of family violence and their children also will be present.

Members of the District Attorney's staff raised more than \$20,000 this year to buy toys and food for families they have encountered through the criminal justice system. Families are nominated by members of the District Attorney's staff. D.A. investigators deliver the gifts to homes throughout Los Angeles County.

smd

Please read our [Privacy Policy](#).

© 1994-2012 Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office. All Rights Reserved.



Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

[Home](#)[Crimes of Violence](#)[Working With Communities](#)[Fraud & Corruption](#)[Search](#)[Meet the D.A.](#)[Top Documents](#)[Victim Services](#)[Consumer Alert](#)[Bureau of Investigation](#)[Criminal Justice Institute](#)[Newsroom](#)[Job Listings](#)[Office Overview](#)[History of the Office](#)[Office Locations](#)[Office Directory](#)[FAQs](#)[Board Correspondence](#)[L.A. County Home Page](#)[Contact Us](#)

Felony Charges Filed Against Five Accused of Starting Corral Fire in Malibu

December 13, 2007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contacts: [Joe Scott](#), Director of Communications

[Sandi Gibbons](#), Public Information Officer

[Jane Robison](#), News Secretary

(213) 974-3525

VAN NUYS – Five young men were charged by the District Attorney's office today with recklessly starting last month's Malibu fire, which burned dozens of homes and forced evacuation of hundreds of residents before being brought under control.

"This wasn't an oops," said District Attorney Steve Cooley. "These charges reflect criminal recklessness that resulted in six injuries and the destruction of 55 homes and other structures.

"The law is clear. You cannot go into a high fire danger area and for whatever reason build a fire. It is not only a recipe for disaster, it is a criminal act," he said in a written statement.

The defendants were scheduled to appear for arraignment on Monday in Department (formerly Division) 100 of Van Nuys Superior Court. Their bails range from \$265,000 to \$240,000. They face substantial state prison sentences if convicted of the crimes.

Named in case No. LA057570 are: Brian Alan Anderson, 23 (dob 8-31-1985); William Thomas Coppock, 23 (dob 5-27-1984); Brian David Franks, 27 (dob 9-9-1980); Eric Matthew Ullman, 18 (dob 7-8-1989); and Dean Allen Lavorante, 19 (dob 6-27-1988). They are named in two felony counts: recklessly causing a fire with great bodily injured and recklessly causing fire to inhabited structure(s). The complaint alleged the crimes were committed "during and within an area of a state of emergency..., which was proclaimed by the Governor of the State of California..."

Authorities said the defendants live in the Culver City and West Los Angeles areas. None is believed to attend Pepperdine University, near where the fire started.

The defendants were among two groups of young people who went to a cave at the top of a hillside in Malibu. Ullman and Lavorante and two young women were there first and built a fire in the cave, authorities said. They left after a second group including Anderson, Coppock and Franks showed up, authorities added.

Embers from the fire touched off flames in the tinder dry hillside. Whipped by 50 mph winds, the fire swept into homes in the area. Neither the defendants nor their companions notified authorities of the fire, investigators said.

The Corral Fire erupted on Nov. 24, only days after massive brush fires stretching from Santa Barbara County to the Mexican Border had brought death and destruction to many areas of Southern California, including Malibu.

The area was posted as a high risk fire danger area. The governor's emergency proclamation from the Malibu fire a few weeks before was still in effect. There were hot, dry Santa Ana winds the day the Corral Fire was ignited. The area where the fire occurred was posted as a danger area.

Authorities said the cave where the defendants and friends went is a popular hangout for young people who go there for parties.

sg

Please read our [Privacy Policy](#).

© 1994-2012 Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office. All Rights Reserved.



Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

[Home](#)

[Crimes of Violence](#)

[Working With Communities](#)

[Fraud & Corruption](#)

[Search](#)

[Meet the D.A.](#)

[Top Documents](#)

[Victim Services](#)

[Consumer Alert](#)

[Bureau of Investigation](#)

[Criminal Justice Institute](#)

[Newsroom](#)

[Job Listings](#)

[Office Overview](#)

[History of the Office](#)

[Office Locations](#)

[Office Directory](#)

[FAQs](#)

[Board Correspondence](#)

[L.A. County Home Page](#)

[Contact Us](#)

Second Defendant Convicted in Body-In-Barrel Case

December 13, 2007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contacts: [Joe Scott](#), Director of Communications

[Sandi Gibbons](#), Public Information Officer

[Jane Robison](#), News Secretary

(213) 974-3525

LOS ANGELES – A second man was convicted of murder today in the killing of a victim whose body was found concealed in a barrel at a Van Nuys storage shed more than three years ago.

The jury verdict in the case of 37-year-old Jeffrey Lawrence Weaver came two days after another jury convicted his co-defendant, David Michael Steinberg, 40. The men were tried together, but before separate juries.

Deputy District Attorney Stephanie Sparagna said the jury convicted Weaver of second-degree murder and found true use of a gun allegations. He faces a 56-year-to-life term. Included in the term, she said, will be 15 years on an unrelated robbery plea in Van Nuys. Sentencing by Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Michael Pastor, who presided over the trial, is scheduled for Jan. 7.

Steinberg, who was convicted of first-degree murder with the special circumstance of lying in wait, and other felony charges, will be sentenced to spend the remainder of his life in prison. Sentencing is scheduled for Feb. 5.

The men were convicted of murdering 37-year-old Christopher Walsh of Chatsworth sometime between June 24 and June 30, 2003. Walsh's body, swathed in plastic and duct tape, was found in a storage container in Van Nuys on July 2, 2003. He had been shot in the head.

The defendants were charged in February 2004. Two other men were charged with being accessories. They pleaded and testified at the trial.

Sparagna and Deputy District Attorney Ann Ambrose prosecuted the case.

sg

Please read our [Privacy Policy](#).

© 1994-2012 Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office. All Rights Reserved.



Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

[Home](#)

[Crimes of Violence](#)

[Working With Communities](#)

[Fraud & Corruption](#)

[Search](#)

[Meet the D.A.](#)

[Top Documents](#)

[Victim Services](#)

[Consumer Alert](#)

[Bureau of Investigation](#)

[Criminal Justice Institute](#)

[Newsroom](#)

[Job Listings](#)

[Office Overview](#)

[History of the Office](#)

[Office Locations](#)

[Office Directory](#)

[FAQs](#)

[Board Correspondence](#)

[L.A. County Home Page](#)

[Contact Us](#)

LAPD Officer, Wife Charged with Grand Theft

December 18, 2007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contacts: [Joe Scott](#), Director of Communications

[Sandi Gibbons](#), Public Information Officer

[Jane Robison](#), News Secretary

(213) 974-3525

POMONA – A Los Angeles Police Department officer and his wife were arraigned today on suspicion of grand theft, the District Attorney's Office announced.

Eric Louis Jennings (dob 04-30-76) and his wife, Jamieta Gadson (dob 02-23-81), were charged in case No. KA081445 on Dec. 14 in a felony complaint for arrest warrant. Jennings and Gadson, who surrendered Friday to Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department officials, were arraigned in Pomona Superior Court.

Jennings is charged with three felony counts – misappropriation of lost property, forgery and grand theft of personal property. Gadson faces a single felony count of grand theft of personal property.

The complaint filed by Deputy District Attorney Susan Schwartz of the Justice System Integrity Division alleges that the crime occurred on Aug. 2 when Jennings found a blank \$1,000 U.S. Postal Service money order. Jennings allegedly cashed the money order by forging a friend's name. The complaint further alleges that the victim had given the money order to Gadson, an apartment manager, for rent.

Jennings and Gadson, who pleaded not guilty, are out on bail. If convicted, Jennings faces a possible maximum sentence of three years and eight months in state prison. His wife faces a possible maximum sentence of three years. The defendants are scheduled for pre-pretrial on Jan. 16 at Pomona Superior Court, Dept. N.

smd

Please read our [Privacy Policy](#).

© 1994-2012 Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office. All Rights Reserved.



Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

[Home](#)

[Crimes of Violence](#)

[Working With Communities](#)

[Fraud & Corruption](#)

[Search](#)

[Meet the D.A.](#)

[Top Documents](#)

[Victim Services](#)

[Consumer Alert](#)

[Bureau of Investigation](#)

[Criminal Justice Institute](#)

[Newsroom](#)

[Job Listings](#)

[Office Overview](#)

[History of the Office](#)

[Office Locations](#)

[Office Directory](#)

[FAQs](#)

[Board Correspondence](#)

[L.A. County Home Page](#)

[Contact Us](#)

Man Sentenced for West Hills Double Murder

December 18, 2007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contacts: [Joe Scott](#), Director of Communications

[Sandi Gibbons](#), Public Information Officer

[Jane Robison](#), News Secretary

(213) 974-3525

VAN NUYS – A 32-year-old man convicted of killing an elderly West Hills couple was sentenced to life in prison today, the District Attorney's Office announced.

Deputy District Attorney Shellie Samuels of Major Crimes Division said Gregory Douglas Miner was sentenced by Van Nuys Superior Court Judge Barry A. Taylor to two terms of life in prison without the possibility of parole. The terms are to be served consecutively.

Miner was convicted late last month of five felony counts – including two counts of first degree murder, robbery and burglary with special circumstances – for the 2001 murders of William and Bertha Lasky.

The couple was slain in their home and their bodies set ablaze by Miner and possibly two others. No one but Miner was charged, however. Miner confessed to the killings citing burglary as the primary motive, the prosecutor said.

smd

Please read our [Privacy Policy](#).

© 1994-2012 Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office. All Rights Reserved.



Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

Home

Crimes of Violence

Working With Communities

Fraud & Corruption

Search

Meet the D.A.

Top Documents

Victim Services

Consumer Alert

Bureau of Investigation

Criminal Justice Institute

Newsroom

Job Listings

Office Overview

History of the Office

Office Locations

Office Directory

FAQs

Board Correspondence

L.A. County Home Page

Contact Us

Officers of Animal Rescue Operation Incarcerated on Cruelty Conviction

December 20, 2007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contacts: [Joe Scott](#), Director of Communications

[Sandi Gibbons](#), Public Information Officer

[Jane Robison](#), News Secretary

(213) 974-3525

LONG BEACH – An executive officer of Noah's Ark Animal Rescue in Long Beach was sentenced today to state prison and another sentenced to jail as a condition of probation for felony animal cruelty convictions.

Deputy District Attorney Mark Burnley, who prosecuted the case, said Alexia Selma Tiraki-Kyrklund, 40, was sentenced to a 16-month state prison term by Long Beach Superior Court Judge Jesse I. Rodriguez. Co-defendant Gloria Ramos, also 40, was ordered to spend 365 days in jail as part of a five-year probationary term.

A jury on Dec. 3 convicted both women of felony animal cruelty. The jury also convicted Tiraki-Kyrklund of a misdemeanor violation of the Long Beach Municipal Code.

The case was filed a year ago after authorities discovered 152 dogs and 147 cats housed inside a warehouse in the 1300 block of Redondo Avenue in Long Beach. A state-licensed veterinarian determined the conditions inside the warehouse were detrimental to the health and safety of the animals.

More than half the dogs had fur severely matted with urine and feces. Many were emaciated and had various infections, authorities said. They said the cats also were emaciated and covered in feces.

A restitution hearing was scheduled for Jan. 31.

sg

Please read our [Privacy Policy](#).

© 1994-2012 Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office. All Rights Reserved.



[Home](#)

[Crimes of Violence](#)

[Working With Communities](#)

[Fraud & Corruption](#)

[Search](#)

[Meet the D.A.](#)

[Top Documents](#)

[Victim Services](#)

[Consumer Alert](#)

[Bureau of Investigation](#)

[Criminal Justice Institute](#)

[Newsroom](#)

[Job Listings](#)

[Office Overview](#)

[History of the Office](#)

[Office Locations](#)

[Office Directory](#)

[FAQs](#)

[Board Correspondence](#)

[L.A. County Home Page](#)

[Contact Us](#)

Judge Orders Former Bell Gardens Official to Repay Entire Salary to City

December 21, 2007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contacts: [Joe Scott](#), Director of Communications

[Sandi Gibbons](#), Public Information Officer

[Jane Robison](#), News Secretary

(213) 974-3525

LOS ANGELES – Former Bell Gardens City Manager Maria Chacon was ordered today to repay her entire salary – more than \$85,000 – to the city as part of her sentence for conflict of interest.

The ruling by Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Drew Edwards came at a lengthy hearing at which Deputy District Attorney Juliet Schmidt of the Public Integrity Division argued that city of Bell Gardens needed to be “made whole” after being victimized by the defendant. The total sum to be repaid is \$85,140.82, said Schmidt.

“A case like this is the reason I formed the Public Integrity Division (PID) after I took office,” said District Attorney Steve Cooley in a written statement. “Maria Chacon’s prosecution was the first major public integrity case brought by PID. The results are beyond satisfactory.

“The citizens of Bell Gardens have received justice,” Cooley added. “And the long appellate trail of the case up to the California Supreme Court gives prosecutors statewide direction in pursuing corrupt public officials.”

Cooley formed PID shortly after being sworn in as District Attorney in December 2000. The criminal case against Chacon was filed in June 2001. It later was dismissed after a Superior Court judge ruled that her defense could claim she was advised by the Bell Gardens city attorney before acting and could not be held responsible for her actions.

The ruling, said Cooley, meant that “any corrupt public official could hire a city attorney to give bad – and perhaps illegal – advice that the official could hide behind to avoid prosecution.”

The District Attorney’s Office filed an appeal. The case was reinstated in

April of this year by the California Supreme Court. Chacon, 60, pleaded no contest in August to a felony charge of conflict of interest. She currently is serving a probationary term that includes 150 hours of community service.

Chacon was appointed Bell Gardens city manager in December 2000. The conflict of interest case alleged she engineered her appointment while still an elected Bell Gardens City Council member.

sg

Please read our [Privacy Policy](#).

© 1994-2012 Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office. All Rights Reserved.



Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

[Home](#)

[Crimes of Violence](#)

[Working With Communities](#)

[Fraud & Corruption](#)

[Search](#)

[Meet the D.A.](#)

[Top Documents](#)

[Victim Services](#)

[Consumer Alert](#)

[Bureau of Investigation](#)

[Criminal Justice Institute](#)

[Newsroom](#)

[Job Listings](#)

[Office Overview](#)

[History of the Office](#)

[Office Locations](#)

[Office Directory](#)

[FAQs](#)

[Board Correspondence](#)

[L.A. County Home Page](#)

[Contact Us](#)

Parolee Charged in North Hills Sex Attacks

December 26, 2007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contacts: [Joe Scott](#), Director of Communications

[Sandi Gibbons](#), Public Information Officer

[Jane Robison](#), News Secretary

(213) 974-3525

SAN FERNANDO – A 24-year-old parolee was charged today in connection with alleged sexual attacks on three women and a 4-year-old girl in the North Hills area of the San Fernando Valley.

David Edward Trujillo (dob 4/12/1983) was expected to be arraigned this afternoon in Department S of San Fernando Superior Court, 900 Third St. Bail was recommended at \$2 million.

Trujillo, of Sylmar, was charged in case No. PA060611 with one count of kidnapping for child molesting, two counts of assault and two counts of attempted forcible rape, all felonies. He also was charged with one misdemeanor count of sexual battery.

The complaint noted a prior felony sexual battery conviction and said the defendant had been free on parole for less than five years.

If convicted, the defendant could be sentenced to more than 11 years in state prison.

The three women, ages 17 to 44, and the child were attacked in a one-hour period on Dec. 14. Trujillo was arrested by Los Angeles police on Dec. 22 and has remained in custody since then.

Deputy District Attorney William Chung of the San Fernando office will prosecute Trujillo.

sg

Please read our [Privacy Policy](#).

© 1994-2012 Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office. All Rights Reserved.



Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

Home

Crimes of Violence

Working With Communities

Fraud & Corruption

Search

Meet the D.A.

Top Documents

Victim Services

Consumer Alert

Bureau of Investigation

Criminal Justice Institute

Newsroom

Job Listings

Office Overview

History of the Office

Office Locations

Office Directory

FAQs

Board Correspondence

L.A. County Home Page

Contact Us

Claremont Man Charged in Old Town Pasadena Shooting

December 26, 2007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contacts: [Joe Scott](#), Director of Communications

[Sandi Gibbons](#), Public Information Officer

[Jane Robison](#), News Secretary

(213) 974-3525

PASADENA – Attempted murder and assault charges were filed by the District Attorney's office today against an 18-year-old Claremont man accused of shooting another young man the day after Christmas during an altercation in Old Town Pasadena.

The complaint disclosed the defendant, Mark Anthony Cole Jr. (dob 5-2-1989), was out of custody and awaiting trial on an apparent unrelated criminal case when the shooting occurred. He was arrested by Pasadena police Wednesday night about an hour after the shooting.

Cole appeared in court in Pasadena today, but his arraignment was postponed until Jan. 11. He is being held on \$1.63 million bail.

The defendant was charged in case No. GA071940 with one count of attempted murder and one count of assault with a semiautomatic firearm. The complaint alleged the defendant personally inflicted great bodily injury on the victim, a 23-year-old man. It also was alleged the defendant personally used a .22 caliber handgun.

If convicted, Cole could receive a maximum sentence of life in prison with the possibility of parole.

The other case named in today's criminal complaint (GA070849) was filed on Sept. 7 and involves one felony count of possession of marijuana for sale, two misdemeanor firearm violations and one misdemeanor count of resisting a law enforcement officer. The alleged offenses occurred on Sept. 5 in the Altadena area.

A trial prosecutor has not yet been assigned to Cole's latest case.

sg

Please read our [Privacy Policy](#).

© 1994-2012 Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office. All Rights Reserved.



Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

[Home](#)

[Crimes of Violence](#)

[Working With Communities](#)

[Fraud & Corruption](#)

[Search](#)

[Meet the D.A.](#)

[Top Documents](#)

[Victim Services](#)

[Consumer Alert](#)

[Bureau of Investigation](#)

[Criminal Justice Institute](#)

[Newsroom](#)

[Job Listings](#)

[Office Overview](#)

[History of the Office](#)

[Office Locations](#)

[Office Directory](#)

[FAQs](#)

[Board Correspondence](#)

[L.A. County Home Page](#)

[Contact Us](#)

Man Sentenced to Two Consecutive Life Terms for "Cold Case" Home Invasion Robbery/Rape

November 5, 2007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contacts: [Joe Scott](#), Director of Communications

[Sandi Gibbons](#), Public Information Officer

[Jane Robison](#), News Secretary

(213) 974-3525

TORRANCE – A Watts area gang activist convicted of forcible rape and burglary in connection with a 2000 home invasion robbery was sentenced today to two consecutive life prison terms plus an additional 109 years, the District Attorney's office announced.

Deputy District Attorney Jodi Link said 41-year-old Steven Lee Myrick was sentenced by Torrance Superior Court Judge Eric C. Taylor, who presided over the defendant's jury trial. Myrick was convicted by a jury on Oct. 2 after about four hours deliberation.

Although the crimes occurred in 2000, Myrick, a convicted felon, was not charged until last year, after a DNA hit on the Combined DNA Index System (CODIS). The CODIS hit matched DNA evidence recovered in the June 18, 2000, robbery and burglary at the Hawthorne home of a woman and her live-in boyfriend. The woman was raped.

Three other men initially were arrested and charged. Charges against one were dismissed upon recommendation of the prosecution because of insufficiency of the evidence against him. The remaining two defendants pleaded guilty to the home invasion robbery. One was sentenced to six years in state prison. The other was shot and killed by Sheriff's deputies in 2005.

Link said Myrick was charged with the crimes in March 2006 and had remained in custody on \$2 million bail since then. At the time of his arrest, Myrick, a gang member with prior robbery and assault convictions, was acting as a community activist working with gang members in the Watts area.

sg

Please read our [Privacy Policy](#).

© 1994-2012 Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office. All Rights Reserved.



[Home](#)

[Crimes of Violence](#)

[Working With Communities](#)

[Fraud & Corruption](#)

[Search](#)

[Meet the D.A.](#)

[Top Documents](#)

[Victim Services](#)

[Consumer Alert](#)

[Bureau of Investigation](#)

[Criminal Justice Institute](#)

[Newsroom](#)

[Job Listings](#)

[Office Overview](#)

[History of the Office](#)

[Office Locations](#)

[Office Directory](#)

[FAQs](#)

[Board Correspondence](#)

[L.A. County Home Page](#)

[Contact Us](#)

Former City Background Investigator Charged with Falsifying Documents of LAPD Candidates

November 6, 2007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contacts: [Joe Scott](#), Director of Communications

[Sandi Gibbons](#), Public Information Officer

[Jane Robison](#), News Secretary

(213) 974-3525

LOS ANGELES – A former city background investigator was arraigned today on charges that he falsified documents of more than a dozen people applying to work at the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) in 2006 and 2007.

Deputy District Attorney Jonlyn Callahan of the Public Integrity Division said 49-year-old Darryl Eugene Washington of Riverside surrendered, was arraigned and pleaded not guilty to 15 felony counts filed on Nov. 2. The case (BA326491), filed as a felony complaint for arrest warrant, was not disclosed until Washington surrendered.

Los Angeles Superior Court Commissioner Henry J. Hall scheduled a hearing for the defendant on Dec. 7 in Department 50. A preliminary hearing was scheduled in the same Department for Dec. 19.

Although Callahan had requested bail of \$100,000, the commissioner released Washington on his own recognizance.

Washington (dob 9-4-1958) was hired in January 2006 by the Los Angeles City Personnel Department as a background inspector. Authorities said that prior to the personnel department job, the defendant worked as a security guard for Getty Museum and a customs inspector assigned to Los Angeles International Airport.

The defendant was assigned to do background investigations of Los Angeles police officer candidates. An investigation determined that the reports contained alleged false and misleading information.

The 15 criminal counts are for public records violations under section 6200 of the California Government Code. Each count involves the alleged falsified

background check of a potential candidate for the LAPD.

If convicted, Washington could be sent to state prison for a maximum term of 18 years.

Callahan said Washington is no longer employed by the city. The case was investigated by the LAPD's Hiring and Evaluation Section.

sg

Please read our [Privacy Policy](#).

© 1994-2012 Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office. All Rights Reserved.



Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

[Home](#)

[Crimes of Violence](#)

[Working With Communities](#)

[Fraud & Corruption](#)

[Search](#)

[Meet the D.A.](#)

[Top Documents](#)

[Victim Services](#)

[Consumer Alert](#)

[Bureau of Investigation](#)

[Criminal Justice Institute](#)

[Newsroom](#)

[Job Listings](#)

[Office Overview](#)

[History of the Office](#)

[Office Locations](#)

[Office Directory](#)

[FAQs](#)

[Board Correspondence](#)

[L.A. County Home Page](#)

[Contact Us](#)

Canoga Park Man Sentenced to 16 Years-To-Life Sentence for UCSB Student's Murder

November 6, 2007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contacts: [Joe Scott](#), Director of Communications

[Sandi Gibbons](#), Public Information Officer

[Jane Robison](#), News Secretary

(213) 974-3525

SAN FERNANDO – A 22-year-old Canoga Park man was sentenced today to a 16-year-to-life prison term for murdering a University of California, Santa Barbara student in the San Fernando Valley last year.

Deputy District Attorney Lou Holtz Jr. said San Fernando Superior Court Judge Charles Peven imposed the sentence on Lawrence Ray Davila. Judge Peven presided over the jury trial that ended on Oct. 19 with Davila's convicted of second-degree murder. The jury also found that Davila used a knife to kill 26-year-old David De A'Morelli on June 24, 2006.

The use of a knife added a year on the 15-year-to-life sentence for second-degree murder.

De A'Morelli was killed just after midnight when he started talking to Davila, who was leaning against the victim's car in Granada Hills. Davila was waiting for a ride. The victim was stabbed six times and lay dying as Davila got into a friend's pickup truck and rode away.

Davila was arrested about a month after the killing.

sg

Please read our [Privacy Policy](#).

© 1994-2012 Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office. All Rights Reserved.



Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

[Home](#)[Crimes of Violence](#)[Working With Communities](#)[Fraud & Corruption](#)[Search](#)[Meet the D.A.](#)[Top Documents](#)[Victim Services](#)[Consumer Alert](#)[Bureau of Investigation](#)[Criminal Justice Institute](#)[Newsroom](#)[Job Listings](#)[Office Overview](#)[History of the Office](#)[Office Locations](#)[Office Directory](#)[FAQs](#)[Board Correspondence](#)[L.A. County Home Page](#)[Contact Us](#)

Woman Charged with Capital Murder for Deaths of Pregnant Woman, Fetus

November 7, 2007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contacts: [Joe Scott](#), Director of Communications

[Sandi Gibbons](#), Public Information Officer

[Jane Robison](#), News Secretary

(213) 974-3525

LOS ANGELES – Capital murder charges were filed today against a woman who allegedly drove her car into a crowd in South Los Angeles, killing a pregnant woman and her fetus.

Unique Kiana Bishop, 21 (dob 9-26-1986), was scheduled to appear late this afternoon in Los Angeles Superior Court Division 30 for arraignment. She was charged in case No. BA 331558 with two counts of murder with the special circumstance of multiple murder, and three counts of attempted murder.

Bishop allegedly drove her car into a crowd of other women during a dispute in the 5800 block of South Western Avenue on Monday. Police said the dispute involved a crowd of women. A melee erupted and fist fights broke out, authorities said.

Shontae Blanche, 22, was run over and killed. She was pregnant and the fetus, referred to in the complaint as "Baby Blanche," also perished.

Three other women were injured, one critically. Police said the defendant fled and was arrested several hours later after going to the Los Angeles Police Department's 77th Station.

Although filed as a capital case, no decision will be made on whether to seek the death penalty against Bishop until her case moves closer to trial. She is being held without bail.

The case has not yet been assigned a trial prosecutor.

sg

Please read our [Privacy Policy](#).

© 1994-2012 Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office. All Rights Reserved.



Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

[Home](#)

[Crimes of Violence](#)

[Working With Communities](#)

[Fraud & Corruption](#)

[Search](#)

[Meet the D.A.](#)

[Top Documents](#)

[Victim Services](#)

[Consumer Alert](#)

[Bureau of Investigation](#)

[Criminal Justice Institute](#)

[Newsroom](#)

[Job Listings](#)

[Office Overview](#)

[History of the Office](#)

[Office Locations](#)

[Office Directory](#)

[FAQs](#)

[Board Correspondence](#)

[L.A. County Home Page](#)

[Contact Us](#)

Alleged Gang Member Charged in North Hollywood Stabbing Case

November 7, 2007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contacts: [Joe Scott](#), Director of Communications

[Sandi Gibbons](#), Public Information Officer

[Jane Robison](#), News Secretary

(213) 974-3525

VAN NUYS – A 19-year-old alleged gang member suspected of stabbing a North Hollywood woman on Sunday was scheduled to be arraigned this afternoon in Van Nuys Superior Court, the District Attorney's Office announced.

Christopher Cruz (dob 12/02/87) of East Los Angeles was charged in case No. LA057276 with attempted murder, aggravated mayhem, residential robbery, first-degree burglary, unlawful driving or taking of a vehicle and second-degree commercial burglary, said Deputy District Attorney Paul Nunez of the Hardcore Gang Division.

Authorities said Cruz was driving an alleged stolen vehicle in the North Hollywood area. When it ran out of gas, he went to a home, knocked on the door and forced his way in when the victim came to the door.

Cruz stabbed the woman repeatedly and left her for dead, then made off with items from the home, police said. The victim was aided by a neighbor, who may have saved her life by getting medical attention for her, authorities said.

Cruz fled the scene and was later arrested at his East Los Angeles home. He faces a maximum penalty of life without the possibility of parole if found guilty of all charges.

Bail was recommended at \$2.22 million. Arraignment is scheduled for Division 100 of Van Nuys Superior Court.

smd

Please read our [Privacy Policy](#).

© 1994-2012 Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office. All Rights Reserved.



Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

[Home](#)

[Crimes of Violence](#)

[Working With Communities](#)

[Fraud & Corruption](#)

[Search](#)

[Meet the D.A.](#)

[Top Documents](#)

[Victim Services](#)

[Consumer Alert](#)

[Bureau of Investigation](#)

[Criminal Justice Institute](#)

[Newsroom](#)

[Job Listings](#)

[Office Overview](#)

[History of the Office](#)

[Office Locations](#)

[Office Directory](#)

[FAQs](#)

[Board Correspondence](#)

[L.A. County Home Page](#)

[Contact Us](#)

Woodland Hills Man Convicted of Nine Felony Counts in Two Child Abduction Cases

November 7, 2007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contacts: [Joe Scott](#), Director of Communications

[Sandi Gibbons](#), Public Information Officer

[Jane Robison](#), News Secretary

(213) 974-3525

VAN NUYS – A Van Nuys Superior Court jury convicted a 53-year-old Woodland Hills man today for his involvement in two San Fernando Valley child abductions.

A jury deliberated for two and a half hours before convicting Michael Terry Ward, 53, (dob 04-29-54) of nine felony counts, including kidnap to commit rape and seven counts of aggravated sexual assault on a child (case No. LA050778).

Deputy District Attorney William Penzin said Ward faces life in prison when he returns to court for sentencing in Judge John Fisher's courtroom on Dec. 6. Penzin said the work of investigating officer Detective Jesse Alvarado of the Los Angeles Police Department's Robbery Homicide Division proved especially valuable in securing the conviction.

In 2005, Ward abducted a 6-year-old Winnetka girl playing near her home. He forced her into his pick up truck and then transported her to a remote location where he raped and sodomized the child. He also made the girl "clean up" before leaving her on the street with change to use a pay phone.

Four years prior, Ward abducted a 6-year-old Canoga Park girl who was riding her bike around her neighborhood. As in the 2005 case, Ward took the child to a remote location in his pick up truck and went on to sexually assault the girl. He then prompted her to "clean up" before dropping her off at another location.

Ward is a registered sex offender with a 1983 sexual assault conviction in Ventura County, for which he was sentenced to 16 years in prison, according to the LAPD. At the time of the attacks, Ward lived in the converted garage of a home that he shared with his 95-year-old grandmother.

smd

Please read our [Privacy Policy](#).

© 1994-2012 Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office. All Rights Reserved.



Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

[Home](#)

[Crimes of Violence](#)

[Working With Communities](#)

[Fraud & Corruption](#)

[Search](#)

[Meet the D.A.](#)

[Top Documents](#)

[Victim Services](#)

[Consumer Alert](#)

[Bureau of Investigation](#)

[Criminal Justice Institute](#)

[Newsroom](#)

[Job Listings](#)

[Office Overview](#)

[History of the Office](#)

[Office Locations](#)

[Office Directory](#)

[FAQs](#)

[Board Correspondence](#)

[L.A. County Home Page](#)

[Contact Us](#)

Valley Heroes Honored by District Attorney

November 8, 2007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contacts: [Joe Scott](#), Director of Communications

[Sandi Gibbons](#), Public Information Officer

[Jane Robison](#), News Secretary

(213) 974-3525

- When Burbank city employee Bradley Taylor, 42, witnessed a brutal display of domestic violence in November 2006, he refused to turn a blind eye. With little regard for his personal safety, Taylor intervened after watching a man shake and punch a woman repeatedly inside a parked van with two children in the back seat. When the man attempted to flee from the Montrose area parking lot, Taylor called police and trailed the assailant until police arrived.

District Attorney Steve Cooley honored Taylor and several other individuals at the Courageous Citizen Awards Luncheon today, at The Odyssey Restaurant in Granada Hills. The event was sponsored by the Kiwanis Club of Northridge.

The luncheon recognized ordinary citizens like Taylor who displayed extraordinary heroism in preventing crime, aiding victims, capturing suspects and assisting in criminal prosecution.

"Without uniforms, firearms or formal training, these every-day heroes performed acts of valor usually limited to those in public safety," Cooley said. "This type of courage is humbling and merits recognition beyond the margins of this event."

Taylor's courtroom testimony helped prosecutors convict the assailant on multiple counts, including domestic violence and child abuse. The man was sentenced to more than three years in state prison.

Other honorees included:

- William Alan Biers, 37, Palmdale

On the evening of April 16, 2007, William Alan Biers observed an old Astro minivan parked outside his Palmdale home. Normally that would not have provoked suspicion but Biers noticed the van had a Saturn paper license plate. As his suspicions grew, Biers decided to take a closer look. As he approached, the van sped away.

While many would have let the incident go, Biers chased the van through his neighborhood – not once, not twice but four times. He circled the neighborhood relentless in his pursuit, at one point witnessing the men carrying a television and boxes from a neighbor's house.

Biers later identified two of the men for law enforcement. They pleaded guilty to burglary and were sentenced to up to four years in state prison.

- Gerry Schultz, 44, Sun Valley

Gerry Schultz ensured justice was served in September when he led police to a hit-and-run suspect in Sun Valley.

While waiting to make a left turn, Schultz witnessed a van running a red light and crashing into the vehicle ahead of him. The vehicle collided with a telephone pole and the driver broke her ankle in three places. The suspect then drove off leaving the injured victim to deal with the havoc he had caused.

Undeterred, Schultz followed the suspect, flagging down police along the way. The suspect was apprehended and pleaded guilty to leaving the scene of an accident and driving without a license. He was sentenced to a year in prison.

- Alejandro Gonzalez, 22, Los Angeles

For his pivotal testimony in two double-murder trials, Alejandro Gonzalez overcame fear of gang retaliation and an actual face-to-face threat from the defendant.

Gonzalez witnessed the shooting of two gang members on September 27, 2004. The prosecution's case rested on teenage witnesses, including Gonzalez who was walking past the two victims when the shooting occurred. In the first trial, the jury hung 8-to-4 in favor of a not guilty verdict. The defendant was released on bail.

Several months later, at a high school prom, Gonzalez encountered the defendant, who threatened, "I'm gonna show you what I'm made of." Gonzalez left the prom in terror, but managing to avoid further confrontation. Gonzalez bravely testified at the second trial and found vindication when the jury returned a guilty verdict and the defendant was sentenced to prison for 100 years to life.

smd

Please read our [Privacy Policy](#).

© 1994-2012 Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office. All Rights Reserved.



Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

Home

Crimes of Violence

Working With Communities

Fraud & Corruption

Search

Meet the D.A.

Top Documents

Victim Services

Consumer Alert

Bureau of Investigation

Criminal Justice Institute

Newsroom

Job Listings

Office Overview

History of the Office

Office Locations

Office Directory

FAQs

Board Correspondence

L.A. County Home Page

Contact Us

Brothers Charged in Fatal El Monte Street Racing Case

November 9, 2007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contacts: [Joe Scott](#), Director of Communications

[Sandi Gibbons](#), Public Information Officer

[Jane Robison](#), News Secretary

(213) 974-3525

POMONA – The brothers of two men suspected of street racing and causing a fiery collision that killed an El Monte woman and her two children were arraigned today at Pomona Superior Court, the District Attorney's Office announced.

The case was filed in connection with murder charges brought against the two men accused of the fatal El Monte collision, case No. KA080781.

Eddie Morones, 25, (dob 11-03-82), Marvin Morones, 18, (09-11-89) and Gilbert Canizalez, 20, (dob 09-27-87) of El Monte were charged in case No. KA081097 with one count each of accessory after the fact. The Morones brothers pleaded not guilty. Canizalez was not in custody at the time of arraignment.

The three defendants allegedly helped Martin Morones (dob 07-21-86) and Robert Canizalez (08-16-88) after the two collided with victim Dora Groce, 41. The collision caused her pickup truck to burst into flames, killing Groce and her two children, Robert, 8, and Catherine, 4. The men face a maximum penalty of three years in state prison if found guilty.

Bail was recommended at \$100,000 each. A preliminary hearing is scheduled in Judge Jack P. Hunt's courtroom on Nov. 26 in Department N of the Pomona Superior Court.

smd

Please read our [Privacy Policy](#).



Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

[Home](#)

[Crimes of Violence](#)

[Working With Communities](#)

[Fraud & Corruption](#)

[Search](#)

[Meet the D.A.](#)

[Top Documents](#)

[Victim Services](#)

[Consumer Alert](#)

[Bureau of Investigation](#)

[Criminal Justice Institute](#)

[Newsroom](#)

[Job Listings](#)

[Office Overview](#)

[History of the Office](#)

[Office Locations](#)

[Office Directory](#)

[FAQs](#)

[Board Correspondence](#)

[L.A. County Home Page](#)

[Contact Us](#)

Buckweed Fire Statement

November 13, 2007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contacts: [Joe Scott](#), Director of Communications

[Sandi Gibbons](#), Public Information Officer

[Jane Robison](#), News Secretary

(213) 974-3525

After a careful evaluation of the evidence, the District Attorney's Office will not file a petition in Juvenile Court against the minor accused of starting the Buckweed Fire. The evidence presented by Sheriff's investigators was that the fire was caused by the 10-year-old boy playing with matches and accidentally igniting the brush. There is no evidence of intent on the part of the minor. The District Attorney's Office is referring the matter to the Department of Children and Family Services for evaluation of the minor's situation to determine if other intervention is necessary.

Because this matter involves a minor, the District Attorney's Office cannot make any further statement. Matters involving minors are statutorily confidential under Section 827 et seq. of the Welfare and Institutions Code.

sg

Please read our [Privacy Policy](#).

© 1994-2012 Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office. All Rights Reserved.



[Home](#)

[Crimes of Violence](#)

[Working With Communities](#)

[Fraud & Corruption](#)

[Search](#)

[Meet the D.A.](#)

[Top Documents](#)

[Victim Services](#)

[Consumer Alert](#)

[Bureau of Investigation](#)

[Criminal Justice Institute](#)

[Newsroom](#)

[Job Listings](#)

[Office Overview](#)

[History of the Office](#)

[Office Locations](#)

[Office Directory](#)

[FAQs](#)

[Board Correspondence](#)

[L.A. County Home Page](#)

[Contact Us](#)

Two Teens Convicted of Murder, Attempted Murder in Hacienda Heights

November 14, 2007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contacts: [Joe Scott](#), Director of Communications

[Sandi Gibbons](#), Public Information Officer

[Jane Robison](#), News Secretary

(213) 974-3525

POMONA – Two young men – one 18 and the other 19 – were convicted of murder today in connection with the fatal shootings of two other teenagers in Hacienda Heights last year.

Deputy District Attorney Stacy Okun-Wiese said a jury convicted Salvador Jacob Villanueva, 19, of one count of first-degree murder, one count of second-degree murder and one count of attempted murder. Co-defendant Angelo Vasquez, 18, was convicted of two counts of second-degree murder and one of attempted murder. The jury found true the allegations of personal use of a firearm against both defendants, the prosecutor said.

Both are facing life sentences when they return to court for sentencing by trial Judge Tia Fisher on Dec. 19.

A co-defendant, 19-year-old Christopher Jay Murray Jr., pleaded no contest earlier this year to the murders and attempted murder. But he also claimed to be insane at the time the crimes were committed. The jury that heard Murray's sanity trial last month found him sane. He has been sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole.

Authorities said Christopher Trevizo, 15, and Demestries Flores, 17, were shot to death on April 3, 2006, while in a flood control channel near Los Altos Drive in Hacienda Heights. The attempted murder victim, Flores' twin brother, survived the shooting.

The motive for the murders was over a quarter of an ounce of marijuana that Murray believed was stolen from him a couple of months before the killings, authorities added.

sg

Please read our [Privacy Policy](#).

© 1994-2012 Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office. All Rights Reserved.



Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

[Home](#)

[Crimes of Violence](#)

[Working With Communities](#)

[Fraud & Corruption](#)

[Search](#)

[Meet the D.A.](#)

[Top Documents](#)

[Victim Services](#)

[Consumer Alert](#)

[Bureau of Investigation](#)

[Criminal Justice Institute](#)

[Newsroom](#)

[Job Listings](#)

[Office Overview](#)

[History of the Office](#)

[Office Locations](#)

[Office Directory](#)

[FAQs](#)

[Board Correspondence](#)

[L.A. County Home Page](#)

[Contact Us](#)

Sheriff's Deputy Pleads in Physical Abuse Case

November 15, 2007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contacts: [Joe Scott](#), Director of Communications

[Sandi Gibbons](#), Public Information Officer

[Jane Robison](#), News Secretary

(213) 974-3525

LOS ANGELES – A Sheriff's deputy accused of physically abusing a young family member pleaded no contest today to two misdemeanor charges and was sentenced, the District Attorney's office announced.

Prosecutor Susan Schwartz of the Justice System Integrity Division said 32-year-old Deana Santino pleaded to one count each of corporal injury to a child and false imprisonment. Los Angeles Superior Court Commissioner Henry J. Hall placed the defendant on three years probation. One of the conditions of probation was that she have no contact with the victim unless arranged through the Department of Children and Family Services.

Santino also was ordered to undergo a year of anger management and participate in a year-long child abuse program. She additionally was ordered to do 90 days of community service with the California Department of Transportation.

Five felony counts were dismissed as part of the plea and sentencing.

Authorities said the crimes occurred between April 15 and Oct. 20 of last year when the victim, a then 8-year-old boy, was living with Santino. The complaint filed against her on Oct. 30 did not alleged specifics of the crimes.

sg

Please read our [Privacy Policy](#).

© 1994-2012 Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office. All Rights Reserved.



Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

[Home](#)

[Crimes of Violence](#)

[Working With Communities](#)

[Fraud & Corruption](#)

[Search](#)

[Meet the D.A.](#)

[Top Documents](#)

[Victim Services](#)

[Consumer Alert](#)

[Bureau of Investigation](#)

[Criminal Justice Institute](#)

[Newsroom](#)

[Job Listings](#)

[Office Overview](#)

[History of the Office](#)

[Office Locations](#)

[Office Directory](#)

[FAQs](#)

[Board Correspondence](#)

[L.A. County Home Page](#)

[Contact Us](#)

Excellence in Public Service, Humanitarian Spirit Recognized

November 16, 2007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contacts: [Joe Scott](#), Director of Communications

[Sandi Gibbons](#), Public Information Officer

[Jane Robison](#), News Secretary

(213) 974-3525

In recognition of distinguished public service, two District Attorney employees – an outstanding investigator and an outstanding support staff member – received the Jemison Award this week.

Senior Investigator David Ishibashi of the U.S. Marshal Fugitive Task Force and Stephanie Morales, a legal office support assistant II, from the Justice System Integrity Division were presented the coveted awards by District Attorney Steve Cooley. The 28th Annual Jemison Awards Ceremony was held at Quiet Cannon in Montebello.

“As you all know, former investigator Frank Jemison and his wife, Jane, created the awards to encourage excellence in the District Attorney’s Office,” Cooley said. “All of today’s nominees should be commended for their exemplary public service and contribution to the Office of the District Attorney.”

Ishibashi, who joined the Bureau of Investigation in 1999, is credited with the apprehension of some 80 fugitives and with locating the suspects who shot two Long Beach police officers in 2006, among other public safety feats.

Morales – described as upbeat, conscientious and reliable – was lauded for unmatched professionalism and dedication to the District Attorney’s Office. Additionally, Morales was recognized for her volunteer work as a youth mentor, her involvement with Special Olympics and Hope Gardens, a shelter for women and children in Sylmar.

Ishibashi and Morales were selected from an elite pool of nominees, including 11 investigators and seven support staff members. The Jemison Awards, which include a monetary reward, were established in 1979.

Also among those honored was Intermediate Clerk Monica Gonzalez of Long Beach Juvenile who received the Michael P. Noyes Humanitarian Award. Each year, the award is presented to a staff member who has displayed great humanitarian spirit.

Since 2002, Gonzalez has gone on seven missions – at her own expense – to Mexico, Honduras and Columbia to help build an orphanage, to provide aid to victims of a flood and to aid people in the aftermath of a hurricane. While in some instances, these missions were organized by her church, in others it was simply Monica and her mother, motivated by tragedies in far away places.

The award was named in honor of Michael P. Noyes, deputy-in-charge of the Code Enforcement Section, after he donated a part of his lung to a girl suffering from cystic fibrosis in 2001.

smd

Please read our [Privacy Policy](#).

© 1994-2012 Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office. All Rights Reserved.



[Home](#)

[Crimes of Violence](#)

[Working With Communities](#)

[Fraud & Corruption](#)

[Search](#)

[Meet the D.A.](#)

[Top Documents](#)

[Victim Services](#)

[Consumer Alert](#)

[Bureau of Investigation](#)

[Criminal Justice Institute](#)

[Newsroom](#)

[Job Listings](#)

[Office Overview](#)

[History of the Office](#)

[Office Locations](#)

[Office Directory](#)

[FAQs](#)

[Board Correspondence](#)

[L.A. County Home Page](#)

[Contact Us](#)

“Escaping Justice” Fugitive to Stand Trial for Murder, Attempted Murder

November 16, 2007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contacts: [Joe Scott](#), Director of Communications

[Sandi Gibbons](#), Public Information Officer

[Jane Robison](#), News Secretary

(213) 974-3525

LOS ANGELES – Alvaro Luna Jara, who fled to Mexico to avoid being prosecuted in connection with the drive-by-shooting of a 12-year-old boy in 1998, was ordered to stand trial today.

Jara, 28, (dob 09-06-79) fled after the victim, Steven Morales, was shot in front of an apartment building in northeast Los Angeles. Steven was not the target, authorities said. Jara also was ordered to stand trial for three counts of attempted murders of rival gang members. He is charged in case No. BA174264.

Superior Court Judge Sam Mayerson, who presented over the three-day preliminary hearing, also held Jara to answer on the special circumstances that the murder was gang-related and other gang and personal gun-use allegations. If convicted, Jara will spend the remainder of his life in prison.

Jara, an admitted Dogtown gang member who was extradited from Mexico earlier this year, shot the boy as he attempted to gun down three Avenues gang members.

When Jara was extradited in May, District Attorney Steve Cooley said, “Our message to murder suspects – you can run, but you can’t hide across the border any longer. We will find you. We will extradite you. We will secure justice for your victims.”

Steven was playing in front of an apartment building, near the intended victims, when he was shot in the head. He died a day later.

Although Jara is a U.S. citizen, Mexican authorities twice refused to deport him – once in 2001 and again in 2004. But after the Mexican Supreme Court reversed an earlier decision and ruled in November 2005 that criminal

suspects facing life in prison sentences abroad could be extradited from Mexico for prosecution, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office aggressively sought Jara's extradition.

Jara is scheduled for arraignment in Department 100 on Nov. 30, 2007.

o0o

To learn more about this case, visit EscapingJustice.com.

smd

Please read our [Privacy Policy](#).

© 1994-2012 Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office. All Rights Reserved.



Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

[Home](#)

[Crimes of Violence](#)

[Working With Communities](#)

[Fraud & Corruption](#)

[Search](#)

[Meet the D.A.](#)

[Top Documents](#)

[Victim Services](#)

[Consumer Alert](#)

[Bureau of Investigation](#)

[Criminal Justice Institute](#)

[Newsroom](#)

[Job Listings](#)

[Office Overview](#)

[History of the Office](#)

[Office Locations](#)

[Office Directory](#)

[FAQs](#)

[Board Correspondence](#)

[L.A. County Home Page](#)

[Contact Us](#)

Inglewood Man Convicted of Traffic Death of Cab Driver

November 16, 2007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contacts: [Joe Scott](#), Director of Communications

[Sandi Gibbons](#), Public Information Officer

[Jane Robison](#), News Secretary

(213) 974-3525

LOS ANGELES – A 30-year-old Inglewood man was convicted today of killing a cab driver in a 2006 traffic collision, the District Attorney's Office announced.

A Los Angeles Superior Court jury found Jeremy Peterson guilty of five felony counts -- one count each of evading a peace officer causing death, gross vehicular manslaughter while intoxicated, driving under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs, possession of a controlled substance (methamphetamine) – and one misdemeanor count, habitual traffic offender. The jury was split on one count of second-degree murder.

Peterson, who could face life in prison, has a sentencing hearing on Dec. 14 in Division 124, Deputy District Attorney Reinhold Mueller said.

In February 2006, Police went to the area of Third Street and Fairfax Avenue, during predawn hours, when a woman reported via cell phone that she was being followed by a man in a pickup truck.

After police arrived, the woman pointed out a pickup truck, which Peterson was driving. Police began a pursuit of the vehicle as it sped north on Fairfax Avenue. The truck crashed broadside into a taxi at Santa Monica Boulevard and Fairfax Avenue. The victim, Asatur Tokatlyan, 42, died on the way to the hospital, officials said.

smd

Please read our [Privacy Policy](#).



Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

[Home](#)

[Crimes of Violence](#)

[Working With Communities](#)

[Fraud & Corruption](#)

[Search](#)

[Meet the D.A.](#)

[Top Documents](#)

[Victim Services](#)

[Consumer Alert](#)

[Bureau of Investigation](#)

[Criminal Justice Institute](#)

[Newsroom](#)

[Job Listings](#)

[Office Overview](#)

[History of the Office](#)

[Office Locations](#)

[Office Directory](#)

[FAQs](#)

[Board Correspondence](#)

[L.A. County Home Page](#)

[Contact Us](#)

Man Convicted of Murder in High-Speed Auto Crash That Killed Mother, Daughter

November 16, 2007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contacts: [Joe Scott](#), Director of Communications

[Sandi Gibbons](#), Public Information Officer

[Jane Robison](#), News Secretary

(213) 974-3525

POMONA – A jury deliberated about a half-day today before convicting a 24-year-old El Monte man of murder and other charges stemming from a fatal vehicle crash during a police pursuit late last year.

Deputy District Attorney Robert Serna said the Juan Carlos Dena was convicted of two counts of second-degree murder, two counts of vehicular manslaughter causing death, one count of unlawful driving and one count of hit-and-run.

Serna said Dena faces a 31-year-to-life prison term. He is scheduled to be sentenced on Jan. 16 by Pomona Superior Court Judge Bruce Marrs, who presided over the week-long trial.

Chau Ho, 48, and her 19-year-old daughter, Jennifer, were killed about 1 a. m. on Dec. 28 when their car was hit by Dena's vehicle at Peck Road and Durfee Avenue. The crash occurred while Dena, driving an alleged stolen truck, was being chased by police at speeds up to 70mph.

Serna said Ho and her daughter, home for the holidays from UC-Santa Barbara, were returning from a family outing when they perished in the collision.

sg

Please read our [Privacy Policy](#).

© 1994-2012 Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office. All Rights Reserved.



[Home](#)

[Crimes of Violence](#)

[Working With Communities](#)

[Fraud & Corruption](#)

[Search](#)

[Meet the D.A.](#)

[Top Documents](#)

[Victim Services](#)

[Consumer Alert](#)

[Bureau of Investigation](#)

[Criminal Justice Institute](#)

[Newsroom](#)

[Job Listings](#)

[Office Overview](#)

[History of the Office](#)

[Office Locations](#)

[Office Directory](#)

[FAQs](#)

[Board Correspondence](#)

[L.A. County Home Page](#)

[Contact Us](#)

No Criminal Charges Against Mother in Knight High School Incident

November 16, 2007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contacts: [Joe Scott](#), Director of Communications

[Sandi Gibbons](#), Public Information Officer

[Jane Robison](#), News Secretary

(213) 974-3525

LOS ANGELES – The District Attorney's Office announced today that no criminal charges will be filed against the mother of a student involved in a fracas at Knight High School in Palmdale.

The 39-year-old woman was arrested on suspicion of battery when she went to the high school to inquire about her daughter, who with two other minors was detained after an incident on campus on Sept. 18. The woman was released and ordered to appear in Antelope Valley Superior Court on Monday.

After evaluating the case, prosecutors in the District Attorney's Antelope Valley Branch Office determined it could best be handled in a non-courtroom setting. Prosecutors noted that the mother had received information about her daughter being detained and was in an emotional state when she confronted school officials.

The District Attorney's Hearing Officer Program is part of the Community Prosecution Division. It was started in 1976 to resolve certain minor criminal allegations, including battery, at an early stage or to divert certain time-consuming matters from congested court calendars to the less costly office hearings.

The officers listen to all parties and their witnesses in an attempt to resolve the problem informally.

sg

Please read our [Privacy Policy](#).

© 1994-2012 Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office. All Rights Reserved.



[Home](#)

[Crimes of Violence](#)

[Working With Communities](#)

[Fraud & Corruption](#)

[Search](#)

[Meet the D.A.](#)

[Top Documents](#)

[Victim Services](#)

[Consumer Alert](#)

[Bureau of Investigation](#)

[Criminal Justice Institute](#)

[Newsroom](#)

[Job Listings](#)

[Office Overview](#)

[History of the Office](#)

[Office Locations](#)

[Office Directory](#)

[FAQs](#)

[Board Correspondence](#)

[L.A. County Home Page](#)

[Contact Us](#)

Gang Member Convicted of Murder in 2005 Harbor Freeway Shooting

November 20, 2007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contacts: [Joe Scott](#), Director of Communications

[Sandi Gibbons](#), Public Information Officer

[Jane Robison](#), News Secretary

(213) 974-3525

LOS ANGELES – A 29-year-old gang member was convicted today of first-degree murder in connection with the 2005 freeway shooting of a college student, the District Attorney's Office announced.

Deputy District Attorney Victor Avila of the Hardcore Gang Division said a Los Angeles Superior Court jury deliberated a day before convicting D'Andre Moorero, who was driving the car from which the fatal shots were fired. He was tried separately from the alleged gunman, Donald Ray Shorts, who faces trial later this year.

Jurors found true the special circumstance of murder by shooting at another from a motor vehicle. The also found true a gang allegation that the crime was committed for the benefit of or in association with a criminal street gang and a gun enhancement for causing the death of the victim by means of a firearm.

On March 29, 2005, Moorero was driving northbound on the Harbor Freeway when he and the alleged gunman began exchanging gang signs with the driver of an adjacent vehicle, Michael Livingston, 20, of Long Beach. Moorero and the alleged gunman believed the victim was from a rival gang and shot him twice in the head.

Moorero is scheduled to be sentenced Dec. 21 by Judge Rand S. Rubin, Dept. 112. He faces life in prison without the possibility of parole.

Although filed as a capital case, the District Attorney's Office opted against seeking the death penalty for Moorero.

smd

Please read our [Privacy Policy](#).

© 1994-2012 Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office. All Rights Reserved.



Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

[Home](#)

[Crimes of Violence](#)

[Working With Communities](#)

[Fraud & Corruption](#)

[Search](#)

[Meet the D.A.](#)

[Top Documents](#)

[Victim Services](#)

[Consumer Alert](#)

[Bureau of Investigation](#)

[Criminal Justice Institute](#)

[Newsroom](#)

[Job Listings](#)

[Office Overview](#)

[History of the Office](#)

[Office Locations](#)

[Office Directory](#)

[FAQs](#)

[Board Correspondence](#)

[L.A. County Home Page](#)

[Contact Us](#)

Transient Charged in Skid Row Kidnapping Case

November 20, 2007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contacts: [Joe Scott](#), Director of Communications

[Sandi Gibbons](#), Public Information Officer

[Jane Robison](#), News Secretary

(213) 974-3525

LOS ANGELES – A 47-year-old man suspected of kidnapping a baby on Skid Row was arraigned this afternoon in Los Angeles Superior Court, the District Attorney's Office announced.

Mario Salcedo Plascencia (dob 3-22-60) was charged in case No. BA332386 with one count of kidnapping with a special allegation of kidnapping a child under age 14, said Deputy District Attorney Kendra Carman of Family Violence Division. He pleaded not guilty.

Plascencia is accused of snatching a 22-month-old boy on Nov. 16 while the child's mother shopped in a district called Toy Town, located in the heart of Skid Row, the Los Angeles Police Department reported. Because the store did not allow strollers inside, the mother left the child in his stroller at the door.

Plascencia allegedly took the child and began walking south on Wall Street. A passerby alleges to have seen Plascencia – seemingly inebriated – carrying the child under one arm, authorities said.

As the witness passed the store, he saw the empty stroller and alerted the child's mother. The woman ran out of the store and chased the alleged kidnapper for about a block.

When the mother caught up to the alleged kidnapper, he refused to give up the child and did so only after the mother struggled physically with him. At this point, it is alleged that the defendant took off running but was detained by a good Samaritan who stopped him, forced him to the ground and held him until police arrived. The child was not injured.

Plascencia, reportedly a transient, is being held in lieu of \$500,000 bail. If

convicted, he faces a maximum penalty of 11 years in state prison. Commissioner Henry Hall set the case for preliminary hearing on Dec. 4 in Division 33.

smd

Please read our [Privacy Policy](#).

© 1994-2012 Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office. All Rights Reserved.



Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

[Home](#)

[Crimes of Violence](#)

[Working With Communities](#)

[Fraud & Corruption](#)

[Search](#)

[Meet the D.A.](#)

[Top Documents](#)

[Victim Services](#)

[Consumer Alert](#)

[Bureau of Investigation](#)

[Criminal Justice Institute](#)

[Newsroom](#)

[Job Listings](#)

[Office Overview](#)

[History of the Office](#)

[Office Locations](#)

[Office Directory](#)

[FAQs](#)

[Board Correspondence](#)

[L.A. County Home Page](#)

[Contact Us](#)

Man Charged with Murder, Vehicular Manslaughter in Fatal Taxi Crash

November 20, 2007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contacts: [Joe Scott](#), Director of Communications

[Sandi Gibbons](#), Public Information Officer

[Jane Robison](#), News Secretary

(213) 974-3525

LOS ANGELES – The driver of a car that allegedly struck a taxi at a Hollywood intersection on Sunday, killing one of the cab's five passengers and critically injuring two others, was charged today with murder and vehicular manslaughter.

Willie Antonio Faulkner (dob 11-17-1979), 28, was arraigned late today in Los Angeles Superior Court. He was charged with case No. BA 332480 with one count each of murder and vehicular manslaughter. Bail was set at the \$1 million recommended by the District Attorney's Office.

Faulkner, of Los Angeles, was arrested after the pre-dawn crash at Melrose Avenue and Crescent Heights Boulevard. In a press release issued on Sunday by the Los Angeles Police Department, investigators said the taxi was hit broadside when the car being driven by Faulkner went through a red light.

Sarah Gilfillan, 26, of Pasadena, was killed in the crash. Two other women passengers remain hospitalized in critical condition. The other two passengers and the driver also were treated for injuries.

Faulkner, apparently wearing the clothing in which he was arrested on Sunday, pleaded not guilty to the charges. Commissioner Henry Hall scheduled a preliminary hearing Dec. 5 in Department 38. If convicted, he faces a possible maximum state prison term of life with the possibility of parole.

The case was filed by the Central Complaints Division and has not yet been assigned a trial prosecutor.

sg/smd

Please read our [Privacy Policy](#).

© 1994-2012 Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office. All Rights Reserved.



Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

[Home](#)

[Crimes of Violence](#)

[Working With Communities](#)

[Fraud & Corruption](#)

[Search](#)

[Meet the D.A.](#)

[Top Documents](#)

[Victim Services](#)

[Consumer Alert](#)

[Bureau of Investigation](#)

[Criminal Justice Institute](#)

[Newsroom](#)

[Job Listings](#)

[Office Overview](#)

[History of the Office](#)

[Office Locations](#)

[Office Directory](#)

[FAQs](#)

[Board Correspondence](#)

[L.A. County Home Page](#)

[Contact Us](#)

Man Charged with Murders of Father, Sister; Bodies Dumped in Two Counties

November 26, 2007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contacts: [Joe Scott](#), Director of Communications

[Sandi Gibbons](#), Public Information Officer

[Jane Robison](#), News Secretary

(213) 974-3525

LOS ANGELES – A 33-year-old man was charged today with the capital murders of his father and sister, whose bodies were dumped in Santa Barbara and Fresno counties.

Mulushewa Tebedge (dob 2-25-1974) was scheduled to be arraigned this afternoon in Superior Court Department 30 (fifth floor, Criminal Justice Center, 210 W. Temple St). He was charged in case BA 332578 with two counts of murder for the deaths "on or about" Nov. 18 of his father, Getahun T. Reta, who would have been 76 on Nov. 20, and his sister, Zerfie Tibeje Getahun, also 33.

The complaint alleged the defendant used a knife to kill both victims. It also alleged the special circumstance of multiple murder. Although filed as a capital case, the District Attorney's office will not decide until a later date whether to seek the death penalty against Tebedge.

Authorities said both victims were stabbed. The sister's body was dumped near Santa Rosa off U.S. Highway 101 in Santa Barbara County. The father's body was dismembered, put in suitcases and a duffle bag and dumped in rural western Fresno County near the 5 Freeway.

Los Angeles police believe the killings occurred Nov. 18 in the family's apartment on West 39th Street in South Los Angeles. Tebedge was arrested there on Wednesday. Police had gone to the apartment with a warrant after Fresno authorities notified them of the father's address.

Police said when they arrived at the apartment and knocked, Tebedge tried to flee out a second-story window. He was captured and has remained in custody.

Since it is a capital case, the defendant will be held without bail.

Deputy District Attorney Alison Matsumoto of the Family Violence Division was assigned to prosecute the case.

sg

Please read our [Privacy Policy](#).

© 1994-2012 Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office. All Rights Reserved.



[Home](#)

[Crimes of Violence](#)

[Working With Communities](#)

[Fraud & Corruption](#)

[Search](#)

[Meet the D.A.](#)

[Top Documents](#)

[Victim Services](#)

[Consumer Alert](#)

[Bureau of Investigation](#)

[Criminal Justice Institute](#)

[Newsroom](#)

[Job Listings](#)

[Office Overview](#)

[History of the Office](#)

[Office Locations](#)

[Office Directory](#)

[FAQs](#)

[Board Correspondence](#)

[L.A. County Home Page](#)

[Contact Us](#)

Man Charged with Attempted Murder of a Peace Officer

November 26, 2007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contacts: [Joe Scott](#), Director of Communications

[Sandi Gibbons](#), Public Information Officer

[Jane Robison](#), News Secretary

(213) 974-3525

LOS ANGELES – A 23-year-old Los Angeles man who allegedly struck an undercover narcotics officer with his vehicle was scheduled to be arraigned this afternoon in Superior Court, the District Attorney's Office announced.

Joe Gubencio Ortiz (dob 03-19-84), 23, is charged in case BA332584 with one count each of attempted murder of a police officer with great bodily injury, assault upon a peace officer, child abuse and sale of a controlled substance. The complaint includes the special allegation of use of a deadly weapon against peace officers.

On Nov. 20 – during an undercover surveillance in Boyle Heights by Los Angeles Police Department narcotics enforcement detail detectives – the defendant allegedly conducted a narcotics transaction, the LAPD reported.

When officers moved in to arrest Ortiz, authorities said he pulled into a driveway and immediately backed his car out at a high rate of speed, nearly striking one of the officers.

As a second officer stood in the street holding his badge out to identify himself, Ortiz allegedly swerved toward the officer striking and severely injuring him. The officer suffered two broken legs and other injuries. The LAPD earlier asked that the victim's name not be released because of his undercover status.

The felony complaint alleged that Ortiz's daughter sat in the back seat of the vehicle during the incident. Ortiz, whose bail was recommended at \$1.13 million, faces life in prison with the possibility of parole.

Deputy District Attorney John Colello of Crimes Against Peace Officers Section will prosecute the case.

smd

Please read our [Privacy Policy](#).

© 1994-2012 Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office. All Rights Reserved.



[Home](#)

[Crimes of Violence](#)

[Working With Communities](#)

[Fraud & Corruption](#)

[Search](#)

[Meet the D.A.](#)

[Top Documents](#)

[Victim Services](#)

[Consumer Alert](#)

[Bureau of Investigation](#)

[Criminal Justice Institute](#)

[Newsroom](#)

[Job Listings](#)

[Office Overview](#)

[History of the Office](#)

[Office Locations](#)

[Office Directory](#)

[FAQs](#)

[Board Correspondence](#)

[L.A. County Home Page](#)

[Contact Us](#)

Teens Charged in String of South Bay Commercial Burglaries

November 27, 2007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contacts: [Joe Scott](#), Director of Communications

[Sandi Gibbons](#), Public Information Officer

[Jane Robison](#), News Secretary

(213) 974-3525

TORRANCE – Two South Bay teenagers are scheduled to be arraigned this afternoon in connection with a 24-count commercial burglary case spanning three jurisdictions, the District Attorney's Office announced.

Keith Clayton Tate (dob 04-01-88), 19, of Manhattan Beach is charged with one count of attempted second-degree commercial burglary and 23 counts of second-degree commercial burglary. Scott Anthony Talmadge (dob 08-05-88), 19, of Redondo Beach, faces one count of attempted second-degree commercial burglary and 16 counts of second-degree commercial burglary.

Manhattan Beach residents, Donald Gene Sadler (dob 09-19-89) and Andrew Wray Sharp (dob 11-15-89), both 18, also are named in the felony complaint. Sadler is charged with one count of attempted second-degree commercial burglary and Sharp is charged with six counts of second-degree commercial burglary. All four defendants are charged in case YA070049.

The defendants, who allegedly targeted businesses, churches and restaurants, among other victims, were apprehended through a multi-jurisdictional effort that included Manhattan Beach, Redondo Beach and Torrance police.

Bail for Tate was recommended at \$480,000 and bail for Talmadge was recommended at \$420,000. Sadler and Sharp are out on bail.

Arraignment for Tate and Talmadge is scheduled for Division 4 of Torrance Superior Court. The case was filed by the Torrance Branch Office and has not yet been assigned a trial prosecutor.

smd

Please read our [Privacy Policy](#).

© 1994-2012 Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office. All Rights Reserved.



[Home](#)

[Crimes of Violence](#)

[Working With Communities](#)

[Fraud & Corruption](#)

[Search](#)

[Meet the D.A.](#)

[Top Documents](#)

[Victim Services](#)

[Consumer Alert](#)

[Bureau of Investigation](#)

[Criminal Justice Institute](#)

[Newsroom](#)

[Job Listings](#)

[Office Overview](#)

[History of the Office](#)

[Office Locations](#)

[Office Directory](#)

[FAQs](#)

[Board Correspondence](#)

[L.A. County Home Page](#)

[Contact Us](#)

Former Sheriff's Deputy Charged in South Bay Internet Predator Sting

November 27, 2007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contacts: [Joe Scott](#), Director of Communications

[Sandi Gibbons](#), Public Information Officer

[Jane Robison](#), News Secretary

(213) 974-3525

LOS ANGELES – A former Sheriff's deputy was charged today with felony crimes arising from his arrest earlier this year in an undercover law enforcement sting aimed at alleged Internet child predators.

Joseph Mican Abadla Carlos, 31 (dob 3-3-1976), was charged in case No. BA332654 with one count each of meeting a minor for lewd purposes, a violation of Section 288.3(b) of the California Penal Code, and one count of attempted lewd act upon a child (664/288(a)) under the age of 14.

Deputy District Attorney Christina Buckley of the Justice System Integrity Division said Carlos is to appear in Los Angeles Superior Court for arraignment on Dec. 17. The arraignment was scheduled for Department 30 in the Criminal Justice Center in the Los Angeles Civic Center.

The complaint recommended bail of \$100,000. If convicted, the defendant could be sentenced to a maximum of four years in state prison.

Carlos, who was with the Carson Sheriff's Station, was charged in connection with a March 2007 sting by the South Bay Internet Enforcement Task Force. Authorities said the charges arose from Internet contact the defendant had with a police detective posing as a 13-year-old girl.

The defendant had been on paid leave since his arrest on March 31. Earlier this month, a spokesman for Sheriff Lee Baca announced that the sheriff had started termination proceedings against Carlos. He had been with the Sheriff's Department seven years.

Carlos was arrested in late March and freed on bail pending completion of the investigation and review of the evidence by the District Attorney's Office.

sg

Please read our [Privacy Policy](#).

© 1994-2012 Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office. All Rights Reserved.



Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

Home

Crimes of Violence

Working With Communities

Fraud & Corruption

Search

Meet the D.A.

Top Documents

Victim Services

Consumer Alert

Bureau of Investigation

Criminal Justice Institute

Newsroom

Job Listings

Office Overview

History of the Office

Office Locations

Office Directory

FAQs

Board Correspondence

L.A. County Home Page

Contact Us

San Gabriel Valley Man Sentenced for Shooting a Reserve Officer, Estranged Wife

November 29, 2007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contacts: [Joe Scott](#), Director of Communications

[Sandi Gibbons](#), Public Information Officer

[Jane Robison](#), News Secretary

(213) 974-3525

POMONA – A La Verne man who shot a reserve Glendora police officer and later, shot his estranged wife was sentenced today to life in prison, the District Attorney's Office announced.

Deputy District Attorney Linda Loftfield of Crimes Against Peace Officers Section said Frank Fidel Beltran, 37, was sentenced by Pomona Superior Court Judge Charles E. Horan to 21 years, plus two consecutive life sentences in state prison. Horan presided over Beltran's trial.

Beltran was convicted earlier this month of two counts of attempted murder, one count of burglary, three counts of assault, three counts of false imprisonment and one count of assault with a semiautomatic firearm.

In February 2006, Beltran shot Glendora Reserve Police Officer Casey O'Gorman when the officer responded to a domestic violence call. Three weeks later, Beltran shot his wife, Angelique Beltran, eight times as she drove on Arrow Highway in the City of San Dimas. Though critically injured, she survived the attack.

smd

Please read our [Privacy Policy](#).

© 1994-2012 Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office. All Rights Reserved.



Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

[Home](#)

[Crimes of Violence](#)

[Working With Communities](#)

[Fraud & Corruption](#)

[Search](#)

[Meet the D.A.](#)

[Top Documents](#)

[Victim Services](#)

[Consumer Alert](#)

[Bureau of Investigation](#)

[Criminal Justice Institute](#)

[Newsroom](#)

[Job Listings](#)

[Office Overview](#)

[History of the Office](#)

[Office Locations](#)

[Office Directory](#)

[FAQs](#)

[Board Correspondence](#)

[L.A. County Home Page](#)

[Contact Us](#)

Man Charged in Theft of Puppies from La Mirada Pet Store

November 29, 2007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contacts: [Joe Scott](#), Director of Communications

[Sandi Gibbons](#), Public Information Officer

[Jane Robison](#), News Secretary

(213) 974-3525

DOWNEY – A 45-year-old man was charged today with commercial burglary and grand theft dog for allegedly breaking into a La Mirada pet store and stealing purebred puppies.

Walter Franklin Steward (dob 2-19-1962) was scheduled to appear in Department 7 of Downey Superior Court this afternoon for arraignment. He was arrested by Sheriff's deputies on Tuesday.

Steward is charged in case No. VA103438 with six counts of second-degree commercial burglary and one count of grand theft dog. All are felonies. Bail was recommended at \$140,000.

The charges stem from the Nov. 7 break-in at Puppy Love. Sheriff's officials announced at the time that a security camera at the pet store recorded the break-in and theft of 16 puppies. There was a second break-in and theft of 10 more puppies over the Thanksgiving holiday.

Sheriff's officials announced Tuesday that two puppies were recovered when they arrested Steward. The defendant, they said, lives near the pet shop.

The remaining puppies have not yet been found.

The case has not yet been assigned to a prosecutor. It was filed in Downey by Deputy District Attorney David T. Cheng.

If convicted, Steward faces a possible maximum state prison term of at least three years and eight months.

Editors: The Downey Courthouse is at 7500 E. Imperial Highway, Thomas Bros. Page 705, G-H, 6-7.

sg

Please read our [Privacy Policy](#).

© 1994-2012 Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office. All Rights Reserved.



Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

[Home](#)[Crimes of Violence](#)[Working With Communities](#)[Fraud & Corruption](#)[Search](#)[Meet the D.A.](#)[Top Documents](#)[Victim Services](#)[Consumer Alert](#)[Bureau of Investigation](#)[Criminal Justice Institute](#)[Newsroom](#)[Job Listings](#)[Office Overview](#)[History of the Office](#)[Office Locations](#)[Office Directory](#)[FAQs](#)[Board Correspondence](#)[L.A. County Home Page](#)[Contact Us](#)

Second Wilshire Area Dognapper Pleads Guilty

November 29, 2007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contacts: [Joe Scott](#), Director of Communications

[Sandi Gibbons](#), Public Information Officer

[Jane Robison](#), News Secretary

(213) 974-3525

LOS ANGELES – The second defendant in a criminal case against two men charged with stealing purebred Yorkshire Terriers from a Wilshire area home pleaded guilty today to robbery and assault with a firearm.

Deputy District Attorney Kenneth Loveman said 24-year-old Troy Cabral pleaded guilty one count each of first-degree residential robbery and assault with a firearm. He is scheduled to be sentenced to eight years in state prison when he returns to court on Jan. 10. Loveman said the defendant is free on \$100,000 bail.

The second defendant, 19-year-old Ryan Jason Betton, pleaded guilty to one count of robbery earlier this year. Betton was to testify at Cabral's trial. He is scheduled to be sentenced on Dec. 10 to two years in state prison.

The young men were charged with stealing the dogs at gunpoint on Feb. 23 from the owners' home in the 200 block of North Manhattan Place. Three purebred Yorkshire Terrier puppies and an adult dog were taken. The puppies had been advertised for sale at \$2,500 each.

Police said when the defendants first came to the residence, they said they wanted to see the advertised puppies. They were told they had to wear slippers to enter the house.

The defendants were told they were being videotaped by a security camera when they arrived the first time. They came back later in the day and rushed inside when the door was opened, authorities said. One was armed. Police said videotape showed the adult dog and puppies being put into a plastic bag.

The dogs were recovered and criminal charges were filed on March 9.

sg

Please read our [Privacy Policy](#).

© 1994-2012 Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office. All Rights Reserved.



Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

[Home](#)

[Crimes of Violence](#)

[Working With Communities](#)

[Fraud & Corruption](#)

[Search](#)

[Meet the D.A.](#)

[Top Documents](#)

[Victim Services](#)

[Consumer Alert](#)

[Bureau of Investigation](#)

[Criminal Justice Institute](#)

[Newsroom](#)

[Job Listings](#)

[Office Overview](#)

[History of the Office](#)

[Office Locations](#)

[Office Directory](#)

[FAQs](#)

[Board Correspondence](#)

[L.A. County Home Page](#)

[Contact Us](#)

Man Convicted of West Hills Double Murder

November 29, 2007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contacts: [Joe Scott](#), Director of Communications

[Sandi Gibbons](#), Public Information Officer

[Jane Robison](#), News Secretary

(213) 974-3525

VAN NUYS – A 32-year-old man was convicted today of killing an elderly West Hills couple, the District Attorney's Office announced.

A Van Nuys Superior Court jury found Gregory Douglas Miner guilty of five felony counts, including two counts of first degree murder, robbery and burglary with special circumstances.

In February 2001, William and Bertha Lasky were slain in their home and their bodies set ablaze by Miner and possibly two others. No one but Miner was charged, however.

Miner confessed to the killings citing burglary as the primary motive, said Deputy District Attorney Shellie Samuels of Majors Crimes Division.

She said Miner entered the home through an open door in the garage after 74-year-old Bertha, a quilter, stepped out to buy fabric. William, 76, was sleeping. When Bertha returned home, she found her husband held at knifepoint and her home being ransacked.

Before the two were set on fire, William was stabbed three times in the chest and Bertha's neck was slit. Firefighters discovered their bodies when they responded to what they believed was a residential fire.

Miner is scheduled to be sentenced Dec. 18 by Judge Barry A. Taylor, Dept. E. He faces life in prison without the possibility of parole.

smd

Please read our [Privacy Policy](#).

© 1994-2012 Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office. All Rights Reserved.



Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

Home

Crimes of Violence

Working With Communities

Fraud & Corruption

Search

Meet the D.A.

Top Documents

Victim Services

Consumer Alert

Bureau of Investigation

Criminal Justice Institute

Newsroom

Job Listings

Office Overview

History of the Office

Office Locations

Office Directory

FAQs

Board Correspondence

L.A. County Home Page

Contact Us

Teen Charged in Murder, Attempted Murder of Two Men

November 30, 2007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contacts: [Joe Scott](#), Director of Communications

[Sandi Gibbons](#), Public Information Officer

[Jane Robison](#), News Secretary

(213) 974-3525

SAN FERNANDO – An 18-year-old Stevenson Ranch man suspected of stabbing two men over the weekend – killing one and critically injuring the other – has been charged with two felony counts, the District Attorney's Office announced today.

Michael Dean Stephens (dob 07-11-89) was scheduled to be arraigned in San Fernando Superior Court, Dept. S, this afternoon. He is charged in case No. PA060468 with murder and attempted premeditated murder, said Deputy District Attorney Mary Sedgwick of the San Fernando Branch Office.

Stephens surrendered Wednesday to Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department officials after an arrest warrant was issued the day before, authorities said. The felony complaint alleges that on Nov. 24 the defendant killed 20-year-old Joshua Piphio of Canyon Country and stabbed a second man.

Following an altercation with the two victims, Stephens allegedly slammed into Piphio with his car, got out and stabbed him multiple times before running over him with the car. Piphio died as a result of the attack. The other victim was stabbed 17 times, but survived.

Bail is recommended at more than \$2 million.

smd

Please read our [Privacy Policy](#).



[Home](#)

[Crimes of Violence](#)

[Working With Communities](#)

[Fraud & Corruption](#)

[Search](#)

[Meet the D.A.](#)

[Top Documents](#)

[Victim Services](#)

[Consumer Alert](#)

[Bureau of Investigation](#)

[Criminal Justice Institute](#)

[Newsroom](#)

[Job Listings](#)

[Office Overview](#)

[History of the Office](#)

[Office Locations](#)

[Office Directory](#)

[FAQs](#)

[Board Correspondence](#)

[L.A. County Home Page](#)

[Contact Us](#)

Man Charged with Arson in Connection with Multiple Fires in Lake Hughes

November 30, 2007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contacts: [Joe Scott](#), Director of Communications

[Sandi Gibbons](#), Public Information Officer

[Jane Robison](#), News Secretary

(213) 974-3525

LANCASTER – An ex-convict who served a prison term for several San Fernando Valley fires in 1988 was charged with arson today in connection with a group of small fires set late last month in the Lake Hughes area as several huge brush fires swept throughout Southern California.

Rickey Jimenez, 52 (dob 2-6-1955), was scheduled to appear for arraignment this afternoon in Department A01, Antelope Valley Superior Court, 42011 4th St. West, Lancaster.

Jimenez was charged in case No. MA040562 with eight counts of arson. The complaint alleged a prior arson conviction in 1988 and another arson conviction in 1979. Jimenez was sent to prison in 1988 for a string of nail salon fires in the San Fernando Valley. The 1979 conviction was in connection with fire at a school, authorities said.

Bail was recommended at \$1 million. If convicted, the defendant is facing a possible sentence of life in prison with the possibility of parole.

Sheriff's arson investigators arrested Jimenez, who lives in Lake Hughes, on Wednesday. The complaint alleged eight separate fires on Oct. 28 in two separate areas – 42930 Lake Hughes Road and 18649 Pine Canyon Road.

The Lake Hughes fires came as much of Southern California was swept by deadly wind-whipped firestorms that destroyed hundreds of homes. All the fires allegedly started by Jimenez were extinguished fairly quickly.

sg

Please read our [Privacy Policy](#).

© 1994-2012 Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office. All Rights Reserved.



Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

[Home](#)

[Crimes of Violence](#)

[Working With Communities](#)

[Fraud & Corruption](#)

[Search](#)

[Meet the D.A.](#)

[Top Documents](#)

[Victim Services](#)

[Consumer Alert](#)

[Bureau of Investigation](#)

[Criminal Justice Institute](#)

[Newsroom](#)

[Job Listings](#)

[Office Overview](#)

[History of the Office](#)

[Office Locations](#)

[Office Directory](#)

[FAQs](#)

[Board Correspondence](#)

[L.A. County Home Page](#)

[Contact Us](#)

Woman Convicted for Death of Parking Attendant

November 30, 2007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contacts: [Joe Scott](#), Director of Communications

[Sandi Gibbons](#), Public Information Officer

[Jane Robison](#), News Secretary

(213) 974-3525

GLENDAL – A 31-year-old woman was convicted today for causing the death of a man who worked as an attendant at a Burbank parking lot, the District Attorney's Office announced.

A Glendale Superior Court jury found Hilda Stephanie Voskanian of Burbank guilty of one count of involuntary manslaughter for the death of Pedro Dorado, 75, said Deputy District Attorney Ana Lopez of the Pasadena Branch Office.

In June 2006, Voskanian and her husband stationed their vehicle in the lot where the victim worked. On their way out of the lot, the victim asked the couple to pay the \$5 parking fee. Voskanian refused. This prompted the victim to position himself in front of the vehicle to photograph its license plate.

Enraged by the victim's actions, Voskanian exited the vehicle and pushed Dorado backwards causing him to slam his head against the pavement, the prosecutor said. The force of the impact caused bleeding of the brain. Dorado died three weeks later.

Voskanian, who was pregnant at the time of the attack, left the scene without knowing the extent of the victim's injuries. She was later identified and arrested through an investigation by the Burbank Police Department.

Voskanian is scheduled to be sentenced Jan. 8 by Judge John P. Doyle. She faces a maximum sentence of four years in state prison.

smd

Please read our [Privacy Policy](#).

© 1994-2012 Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office. All Rights Reserved.



Home

Crimes of Violence

Working With Communities

Fraud & Corruption

Search

Meet the D.A.

Top Documents

Victim Services

Consumer Alert

Bureau of Investigation

Criminal Justice Institute

Newsroom

Job Listings

Office Overview

History of the Office

Office Locations

Office Directory

FAQs

Board Correspondence

L.A. County Home Page

Contact Us

ATTN: ASSIGNMENT EDITORS

John Steven Burgess

CORRECTION: Corrects time and courtroom

October 1, 2007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contacts: [Joe Scott](#), Director of Communications

[Sandi Gibbons](#), Public Information Officer

[Jane Robison](#), News Secretary

(213) 974-3525

John Steven Burgess, described by authorities as “a person of interest” in the disappearance of San Diego State University student Donna Jou, is expected to appear for a bail hearing after 8:30 a.m. tomorrow (Tuesday, Oct. 2) in Los Angeles Superior Court Department 142, Airport Courthouse, 11701 S. La Cienega Blvd. Burgess, a convicted sex offender, is charged in case No. SA064670 with failing to register. He had been free on \$250,000 bail, which was revoked by a bonding company after Burgess was arrested in Florida on unrelated matters. He was returned to Los Angeles by bail agents last week and currently is in custody. His preliminary hearing on the failure to register case is scheduled for Oct. 10 in Department 142 of the Airport Courthouse. Contact: Sandi Gibbons or Jane Robison, 213-974-3528.

sg

Please read our [Privacy Policy](#).

© 1994-2012 Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office. All Rights Reserved.



Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

[Home](#)

[Crimes of Violence](#)

[Working With Communities](#)

[Fraud & Corruption](#)

[Search](#)

[Meet the D.A.](#)

[Top Documents](#)

[Victim Services](#)

[Consumer Alert](#)

[Bureau of Investigation](#)

[Criminal Justice Institute](#)

[Newsroom](#)

[Job Listings](#)

[Office Overview](#)

[History of the Office](#)

[Office Locations](#)

[Office Directory](#)

[FAQs](#)

[Board Correspondence](#)

[L.A. County Home Page](#)

[Contact Us](#)

Teen Charged as Adult in Santa Monica Home Burglary Rape Case

October 2, 2007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contacts: [Joe Scott](#), Director of Communications

[Sandi Gibbons](#), Public Information Officer

[Jane Robison](#), News Secretary

(213) 974-3525

LOS ANGELES – A teenager was charged today as an adult with forcible rape, burglary and other crimes in last week's attack of a Santa Monica woman who confronted a burglar in her home when she returned from work Saturday night.

Deputy District Attorney Lisa Houle said 17-year-old Luis Mario Lopez (dob 10-12-1989) is scheduled to appear for arraignment after 1:30 p.m. today in Superior Court Department 144, Airport Branch, 11701 S. La Cienga Blvd.

Lopez is charged in case No. SA 065558 with five counts of forcible rape and one count each of forcible oral copulation, forcible penetration with a foreign object, residential burglary and unlawful taking of the victim's Mercedes Benz convertible. Bail of \$7 million was recommended. The defendant faces multiple life prison terms if convicted.

The defendant was arrested in Oxnard on Friday, a few hours after the attack. Police in Santa Monica and Oxnard said the defendant, who listed an Oxnard address, was driving the victim's car.

Houle said the victim was attacked repeatedly over a four-hour period and suffered injuries including a broken nose. She was treated but not hospitalized, the prosecutor said.

Authorities said evidence indicates the defendant entered the victim's home sometime Thursday morning and attacked her when she got home at 10 p.m. He left around 2 a.m. on Friday, authorities said.

sg

Please read our [Privacy Policy](#).

© 1994-2012 Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office. All Rights Reserved.



Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

[Home](#)

[Crimes of Violence](#)

[Working With Communities](#)

[Fraud & Corruption](#)

[Search](#)

[Meet the D.A.](#)

[Top Documents](#)

[Victim Services](#)

[Consumer Alert](#)

[Bureau of Investigation](#)

[Criminal Justice Institute](#)

[Newsroom](#)

[Job Listings](#)

[Office Overview](#)

[History of the Office](#)

[Office Locations](#)

[Office Directory](#)

[FAQs](#)

[Board Correspondence](#)

[L.A. County Home Page](#)

[Contact Us](#)

Three Charged With Capital Murder In Fatal Shooting of Plastic Surgeon

October 2, 2007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contacts: [Joe Scott](#), Director of Communications

[Sandi Gibbons](#), Public Information Officer

[Jane Robison](#), News Secretary

(213) 974-3525

LANCASTER – Three men were charged today with the July 5, 2006 murder of a noted plastic surgeon at his sprawling ranch in the Antelope Valley, the District Attorney's office announced.

Deputy District Attorney Michael Blake filed capital murder charges against Nicolas Olvera Cordoba, (dob 5-9-51), Antonio Martinez, (dob 6-13-63), and Arturo Rosales Verdin, (dob 8-10-67), for the fatal shooting of Dr. Esfandiar "Steve" Kadivar.

The 64-year-old Kadivar, who had medical offices in Palmdale and lived in Beverly Hills, worked his 160-acre ranch himself, raising alfalfa and pistachios. Nicolas Cordoba, a hired hand who had lived on the property for several years, allegedly was the mastermind of a murder-for-hire plot to kill the doctor, Blake said.

Cordoba allegedly arranged for Martinez and Verdin to drive to the ranch about 15 miles west of Lancaster on the afternoon of July 5, 2006. Martinez and Verdin allegedly found the doctor alone, feeding his animals, and fatally shot him with a high powered rifle.

After the doctor's murder, Cordoba allegedly convinced Efrain Martines to buy-in as a partner in the ranching operation that Cordoba then ran. But in early 2007, the two men had a falling out and Cordoba allegedly promised to pay co-defendant Marco Garcia several thousand dollars if he, Martinez and Verdin would kill Efrain Martines.

On April 28, Marco Garcia allegedly fatally shot Efrain Martines with an SKS assault rifle while Martines was working at the Kadivar ranch. Blake said co-defendants Martinez and Verdin allegedly were present at the time of the murder and orchestrated the removal of the victim's remains from the property to a location where he was found a few days later, several miles

away.

Cordoba, Martinez and Verdin are charged in case No. MA039342 with both murders with the special circumstances of murder for financial gain, lying in wait and multiple murders. Garcia is charged in the same complaint with the murder for hire of Efrain Martines.

All four defendants are scheduled to be arraigned after 8:30 a.m. Thursday at the Antelope Valley Court, Div. A1, in Lancaster. All four are being held without bail.

Blake said the excellent investigative work by Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department detectives lead to breaks in the case that tied the Martines and Kadivar murders together.

jr

Please read our [Privacy Policy](#).

© 1994-2012 Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office. All Rights Reserved.



Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

Home

Crimes of Violence

Working With Communities

Fraud & Corruption

Search

Meet the D.A.

Top Documents

Victim Services

Consumer Alert

Bureau of Investigation

Criminal Justice Institute

Newsroom

Job Listings

Office Overview

History of the Office

Office Locations

Office Directory

FAQs

Board Correspondence

L.A. County Home Page

Contact Us

Man Charged After a DNA "Cold Hit" Convicted of 7-year-old Hawthorne Home Invasion Robbery/Rape

October 2, 2007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contacts: [Joe Scott](#), Director of Communications

[Sandi Gibbons](#), Public Information Officer

[Jane Robison](#), News Secretary

(213) 974-3525

TORRANCE – A Torrance jury convicted a Watts area gang activist of forcible rape and burglary in connection with a 2000 home invasion robbery and rape in Hawthorne. The jury deliberated about four hours before returning the verdicts.

Deputy District Attorney Jodi Link said 41-year-old Steven Lee Myrick faces multiple life prison terms when he returns to court for sentencing on Nov. 5 by Torrance Superior Court Judge Eric C. Taylor.

Myrick, a convicted felon, was arrested and charged last year after a DNA hit on the Combined DNA Index System (CODIS) matched DNA evidence recovered in the June 18, 2000, robbery and burglary at the home of a woman and her live-in boyfriend in Hawthorne. The woman was raped.

Three men initially were arrested and charged. Charges against one were dismissed upon recommendation of the prosecutor because of insufficiency of the evidence. Two defendants pleaded guilty to the home invasion robbery. One was sentenced to six years in state prison. The other was shot and killed by Sheriff's deputies in 2005.

Link said Myrick came to the attention of authorities in connection with the Hawthorne case on Feb. 15, 2006, when they were notified of the CODIS hit. He was charged a month later and has remained in custody on \$2 million bail.

At the time of his arrest, Myrick a gang member with prior robbery and assault convictions, was acting as a community activist working with

gang members in the Watts area.

Link said the jury did not find a gang allegation true on the rape convictions, but did find the gang allegation true on the burglary count.

When she filed the case against Myrick last year, she listed prior felony convictions dating back to 1988.

sg

Please read our [Privacy Policy](#).

© 1994-2012 Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office. All Rights Reserved.



[Home](#)

[Crimes of Violence](#)

[Working With Communities](#)

[Fraud & Corruption](#)

[Search](#)

[Meet the D.A.](#)

[Top Documents](#)

[Victim Services](#)

[Consumer Alert](#)

[Bureau of Investigation](#)

[Criminal Justice Institute](#)

[Newsroom](#)

[Job Listings](#)

[Office Overview](#)

[History of the Office](#)

[Office Locations](#)

[Office Directory](#)

[FAQs](#)

[Board Correspondence](#)

[L.A. County Home Page](#)

[Contact Us](#)

Truck Driver Sentenced to Death for Murdering His Two Young Daughters

October 3, 2007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contacts: [Joe Scott](#), Director of Communications

[Sandi Gibbons](#), Public Information Officer

[Jane Robison](#), News Secretary

(213) 974-3525

VAN NUYS – An Anaheim truck driver was sentenced to death today for murdering his two little girls more than five years ago. He also was sentenced to life imprisonment without the possibility of parole for murdering his former girlfriend, the children's mother.

Julian Arturo Beltran, 33, was convicted by a jury last year of capital murder for fatally stabbing his daughters – ages 2 and 6 – at their Sun Valley home on Jan. 23, 2002. The jury found true the special circumstance of multiple murder.

The jury could not, however, reach a unanimous verdict on whether the fatal stabbing of the former girlfriend was a first- or second-degree murder. A mistrial was declared.

A penalty phase of the trial was held and the jury that convicted Beltran of the girls' murders in November of last year recommended the following month that he be sentenced to death. In January of this year, Beltran pleaded no contest to the capital murder of his former girlfriend in exchange for a sentence on that charge only of life in prison without the possibility of parole.

Deputy District Attorney Andrea Thompson, who prosecuted Beltran, said the sentences were imposed by Van Nuys Superior Court Judge Barry A. Taylor, who presided over last year's trial.

Michele Barahona, 24, and the little girls – Natalie and Marissa – were stabbed to death after the woman would not reconcile with Beltran.

The defendant was arrested in Orange County a day after the triple murders and has remained in custody without bail.

sg

Please read our [Privacy Policy](#).

© 1994-2012 Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office. All Rights Reserved.



Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

[Home](#)

[Crimes of Violence](#)

[Working With Communities](#)

[Fraud & Corruption](#)

[Search](#)

[Meet the D.A.](#)

[Top Documents](#)

[Victim Services](#)

[Consumer Alert](#)

[Bureau of Investigation](#)

[Criminal Justice Institute](#)

[Newsroom](#)

[Job Listings](#)

[Office Overview](#)

[History of the Office](#)

[Office Locations](#)

[Office Directory](#)

[FAQs](#)

[Board Correspondence](#)

[L.A. County Home Page](#)

[Contact Us](#)

Fashion Designer Indicted by Grand Jury

October 4, 2007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contacts: [Joe Scott](#), Director of Communications

[Sandi Gibbons](#), Public Information Officer

[Jane Robison](#), News Secretary

(213) 974-3525

LOS ANGELES – A suspected serial rapist who allegedly used the Internet to lure young female models to Los Angeles has been charged in a 59-count indictment with sexually assaulting 20 women, the District Attorney's office announced.

Anand Jon Alexander, 33, was indicted Sept. 27 by the Los Angeles County criminal Grand Jury following a nine-day hearing with 23 witnesses, said Deputy District Mara McIlvain, with the Sex Crimes Division who is prosecuting the case. The indictment, which was unsealed today, charges Alexander with sexually assaulting female victims ranging in age from 14 to 27 beginning in November 2002 to March of this year.

Alexander's arraignment was continued today to Oct. 25 before Los Angeles Superior Court Judge David Wesley. He is charged with 54 felonies and five misdemeanors in case No. is BA327190. Prosecutors ask that bail be set at \$5.1 million per the bail schedule. He is currently being held without bail.

McIlvain said the indictment includes all 18 victims from an earlier complaint plus two additional victims. Three of the counts involve a victim in Santa Barbara County. Of the 20 alleged victims, seven are from California. The rest are from eight states and two countries.

Alexander set up a fledgling fashion design business and allegedly used it to lure models to Los Angeles. Beverly Hills police launched an investigation in March after a woman reported she was sexually assaulted by Alexander at his Beverly Hills apartment. The initial complaint filed March 8 will be dismissed.

Alexander also is under investigation in Dallas and Houston, Texas; New York and Massachusetts. If convicted on the new criminal indictment in Los Angeles, he is facing up to life in prison.

jr

Please read our [Privacy Policy](#).

© 1994-2012 Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office. All Rights Reserved.



Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

[Home](#)

[Crimes of Violence](#)

[Working With Communities](#)

[Fraud & Corruption](#)

[Search](#)

[Meet the D.A.](#)

[Top Documents](#)

[Victim Services](#)

[Consumer Alert](#)

[Bureau of Investigation](#)

[Criminal Justice Institute](#)

[Newsroom](#)

[Job Listings](#)

[Office Overview](#)

[History of the Office](#)

[Office Locations](#)

[Office Directory](#)

[FAQs](#)

[Board Correspondence](#)

[L.A. County Home Page](#)

[Contact Us](#)

Convict Charged In Manhattan Beach Rape Murder

October 4, 2007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contacts: [Joe Scott](#), Director of Communications

[Sandi Gibbons](#), Public Information Officer

[Jane Robison](#), News Secretary

(213) 974-3525

TORRANCE – A convict was charged today with the 2-year-old rape murder of a housekeeper whose bound and gagged body was found in the aftermath of a fire at the Manhattan Beach apartment where she worked.

The capital murder case was filed against 25-year-old Milton Montiel Gallardo (dob 1-6-1982), currently in Wasco State Prison on an unrelated theft conviction. He is scheduled to be brought to Los Angeles on Oct. 18 for arraignment in Dept. 4 of Torrance Superior Court.

Deputy District Attorney Jodi Link said Sheriff's homicide detectives began investigating Gallardo after a DNA "hit" on the DNA Database earlier this year. When Gallardo was sent to prison in connection with the theft conviction earlier this year, his DNA was collected and put into the DNA Database.

Gallardo is charged in case No. YA069541 with one count of murder and one count of arson of an inhabited structure. The complaint alleged the special circumstances of rape murder and murder during a burglary. The defendant will be held without bail when he is brought back to Los Angeles.

Although filed as a capital case, the District Attorney's office will not make a decision on whether to seek the death penalty against Gallardo until the case moves closer to trial.

The housekeeper, identified in the complaint only as "Libia C.," was

killed April 11, 2005. The 39-year-old victim, who lived in Lawndale, worked as a housekeeper and was cleaning the apartment in the 100 block of 28th Street in Manhattan Beach when she was attacked.

Authorities said a fire was started in an apparent attempt to cover up the crime. The victim's body was badly burned, but investigators were able to have a sexual assault examination performed. It was the results of the test that eventually led to the investigation of Gallardo.

The case was filed by Link, who heads the District Attorney's sexual assault unit in Torrance. It will be prosecuted by Link and Deputy District Attorney Debra Lamb.

sg

Please read our [Privacy Policy](#).

© 1994-2012 Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office. All Rights Reserved.



Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

[Home](#)

[Crimes of Violence](#)

[Working With Communities](#)

[Fraud & Corruption](#)

[Search](#)

[Meet the D.A.](#)

[Top Documents](#)

[Victim Services](#)

[Consumer Alert](#)

[Bureau of Investigation](#)

[Criminal Justice Institute](#)

[Newsroom](#)

[Job Listings](#)

[Office Overview](#)

[History of the Office](#)

[Office Locations](#)

[Office Directory](#)

[FAQs](#)

[Board Correspondence](#)

[L.A. County Home Page](#)

[Contact Us](#)

Man Charged In "Indiana Jones" Theft Case

October 4, 2007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contacts: [Joe Scott](#), Director of Communications

[Sandi Gibbons](#), Public Information Officer

[Jane Robison](#), News Secretary

(213) 974-3525

BEVERLY HILLS – A Cerritos man was charged today with receiving stolen property in connection with the theft of computers and photos from the fourth outing of "Indiana Jones" were taken from a film production office at Universal Studios last week.

Roderick Eric Davis, 37 (dob 8-23-1970), of Cerritos, is scheduled to appear for arraignment this afternoon in Department 1, Beverly Hills Superior Court. He is charged in case No. SA065583 with one count of receiving stolen property, described in the complaint as "motion picture production budget and proofs." The complaint also alleges prior convictions for burglary, grand theft and receiving stolen property.

Bail for Davis, who was arrested on Tuesday, was recommended at \$100,000. He has been in custody since his arrest by Sheriff's deputies at a hotel in West Hollywood.

Sheriff's officials said Davis was taken into custody during a sting that was set up after an e-mail was sent out on Tuesday by someone claiming to have material from the upcoming Steven Spielberg production on sale.

If convicted, Davis faces a possible term of at least four years in state prison.

The case was filed in Beverly Hills by Deputy District Attorney Carole Chizever. It has not yet been assigned to a trial prosecutor.

sg

Please read our [Privacy Policy](#).

© 1994-2012 Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office. All Rights Reserved.



Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

[Home](#)

[Crimes of Violence](#)

[Working With Communities](#)

[Fraud & Corruption](#)

[Search](#)

[Meet the D.A.](#)

[Top Documents](#)

[Victim Services](#)

[Consumer Alert](#)

[Bureau of Investigation](#)

[Criminal Justice Institute](#)

[Newsroom](#)

[Job Listings](#)

[Office Overview](#)

[History of the Office](#)

[Office Locations](#)

[Office Directory](#)

[FAQs](#)

[Board Correspondence](#)

[L.A. County Home Page](#)

[Contact Us](#)

Man Charged With Felony Animal Cruelty In Alleged Attempt to Drown Dog

October 4, 2007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contacts: [Joe Scott](#), Director of Communications

[Sandi Gibbons](#), Public Information Officer

[Jane Robison](#), News Secretary

(213) 974-3525

VAN NUYS – A felony charge of animal cruelty was filed in Van Nuys today against a 19-year-old man who allegedly tried to drown his Shih Tzu, "Toby," after the dog defecated on a carpet in his home.

Casey Purser (dob 10-21-1987) is charged in case No. LA 057007. The complaint alleged that at the time the crime was committed, Purser was free on bail in an unrelated drug case. Bail for the animal cruelty case was recommended at \$100,000.

According to information released to the media earlier this week by the Animal Cruelty Task Force, Purser went to his Van Nuys home on Monday after being bailed out of jail on the drug case. Authorities said the dog was thrown into a bathtub and held under water. A neighbor rescued the dog, gave it mouth-to-mouth resuscitation and took it to a veterinarian.

The dog survived. A second dog, a pit bull puppy named "Evesue," was taken by authorities when Purser was arrested at the vet's office.

He was freed on \$45,000 bail and is due to appear for arraignment on Oct. 23 in Department 100 of Van Nuys Superior Court. He is due in the same courthouse (Department 122) on Oct. 11 for a preliminary hearing on the drug case (LA 056936).

Deputy District Attorney Steven Frankland filed the case. It has not yet been assigned to a trial prosecutor.

If convicted, the defendant faces a maximum state prison term of five

years.

sg

Please read our [Privacy Policy](#).

© 1994-2012 Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office. All Rights Reserved.



[Home](#)

[Crimes of Violence](#)

[Working With Communities](#)

[Fraud & Corruption](#)

[Search](#)

[Meet the D.A.](#)

[Top Documents](#)

[Victim Services](#)

[Consumer Alert](#)

[Bureau of Investigation](#)

[Criminal Justice Institute](#)

[Newsroom](#)

[Job Listings](#)

[Office Overview](#)

[History of the Office](#)

[Office Locations](#)

[Office Directory](#)

[FAQs](#)

[Board Correspondence](#)

[L.A. County Home Page](#)

[Contact Us](#)

Second Man Convicted of 1999 Murder of Woodland Hills Investor

October 5, 2007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contacts: [Joe Scott](#), Director of Communications

[Sandi Gibbons](#), Public Information Officer

[Jane Robison](#), News Secretary

(213) 974-3525

VAN NUYS – A man who was tracked down after he was profiled on “America’s Most Wanted” was convicted today of murdering a Woodland Hills investor during a 1999 follow-home robbery and carjacking of the victim’s Bentley.

A jury deliberated a day and a half before convicting 37-year-old Boris George Graham of first-degree murder. The jury found true the special circumstances of murder during a carjacking, kidnapping, burglary and robbery. The District Attorney’s office did not seek the death penalty for Graham, so he is scheduled to be sentenced to spend the remainder of his life in prison without the possibility of parole.

Graham has been in custody without bail since he was arrested in 2004 in Florida after being profiled on “America’s Most Wanted” in connection with the kidnapping and murder of 30-year-old Christopher Rawlings on Feb. 8, 1999.

Deputy District Attorney Beth Silverman of the Major Crimes Division said that besides convicting Graham of first-degree murder with the four special circumstances, the jury also found the defendant guilty of one count each of kidnapping to commit robbery, kidnapping for carjacking, home invasion robbery, residential burglary, carjacking and evading arrest. The jury found that a principal was armed during commission of the crimes.

A co-defendant was captured shortly after Rawlings was killed. Kirell Francis Taylor was tried and convicted of similar charges. He is serving a life-without-parole sentence.

Rawlings was followed home by the two robbers, who threw him into the trunk of his Bentley after he was robbed of cash and jewelry in the garage of his home. The victim’s wife saw her husband being robbed and fled inside the

family home to call police.

Police chased the fleeing Bentley at speeds reaching up to 100 mps. The Bentley crashed, catapulting Rawlings from the trunk into a wall. He died of his injuries.

The robbers fled in different directions. Taylor escaped by carjacking another automobile and was arrested by his parole officer for an alleged violation five months after Rawlings was killed. He was charged a month later.

Graham vanished. He was twice profiled on "America's Most Wanted."

A tip eventually led authorities to Hollywood, Fla., where Graham was arrested in early 2004. When he was returned to Los Angeles to face the murder case against him, Graham listed his home town as Chicago.

The defendant is due back in Van Nuys Superior Court on Oct. 15 for a trial on a prior assault conviction. Silverman said that trial Judge Martin Herscovitz is expected to set a date for sentencing after the court trial on the prior conviction.

sg

Please read our [Privacy Policy](#).

© 1994-2012 Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office. All Rights Reserved.



Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

Home

Crimes of Violence

Working With Communities

Fraud & Corruption

Search

Meet the D.A.

Top Documents

Victim Services

Consumer Alert

Bureau of Investigation

Criminal Justice Institute

Newsroom

Job Listings

Office Overview

History of the Office

Office Locations

Office Directory

FAQs

Board Correspondence

L.A. County Home Page

Contact Us

Statement on Release of LAPD Report on MacArthur Park Incident

October 9, 2007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contacts: [Joe Scott](#), Director of Communications

[Sandi Gibbons](#), Public Information Officer

[Jane Robison](#), News Secretary

(213) 974-3525

The District Attorney's Justice System Integrity Division has an ongoing investigation into the May Day 2007 incident in MacArthur Park. The Los Angeles Police Department has not formally presented its evidence to us, although it has updated us on the progress of its investigation.

Once all evidence is received, the case will be reviewed to determine whether criminal charges are warranted.

sg

Please read our [Privacy Policy](#).

© 1994-2012 Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office. All Rights Reserved.



Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

Home

Crimes of Violence

Working With Communities

Fraud & Corruption

Search

Meet the D.A.

Top Documents

Victim Services

Consumer Alert

Bureau of Investigation

Criminal Justice Institute

Newsroom

Job Listings

Office Overview

History of the Office

Office Locations

Office Directory

FAQs

Board Correspondence

L.A. County Home Page

Contact Us

Man Charged With Hit-and-Run

October 9, 2007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contacts: [Joe Scott](#), Director of Communications

[Sandi Gibbons](#), Public Information Officer

[Jane Robison](#), News Secretary

(213) 974-3525

LOS ANGELES – A 24-year-old Los Angeles man suspected of plowing his car into two sisters as they were crossing the street Monday was charged today with felony hit-and-run, the District Attorney's office announced.

Jorge Porfirio Ramos, (dob 6-5-83), is scheduled to be arraigned this afternoon at the Foltz Criminal Justice Center, Division 30, said Deputy District Attorney Joseph Shidler. He is charged in case No. BA330071 with felony leaving the scene of an accident with the special allegation of causing great bodily injury. He also is charged with one misdemeanor count of unlicensed driver. Bail is requested at \$110,000.

Ramos allegedly was driving about 7:25 a.m. Monday when he struck two the sisters, ages 11 and 12, as they were crossing the street I the 4700 block of West Olympic Boulevard. Both were seriously injured and remain hospitalized. Ramos allegedly abandoned the vehicle. A witness chased him and convinced him to return to the scene.

jr

Please read our [Privacy Policy](#).

© 1994-2012 Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office. All Rights Reserved.



Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

[Home](#)

[Crimes of Violence](#)

[Working With Communities](#)

[Fraud & Corruption](#)

[Search](#)

[Meet the D.A.](#)

[Top Documents](#)

[Victim Services](#)

[Consumer Alert](#)

[Bureau of Investigation](#)

[Criminal Justice Institute](#)

[Newsroom](#)

[Job Listings](#)

[Office Overview](#)

[History of the Office](#)

[Office Locations](#)

[Office Directory](#)

[FAQs](#)

[Board Correspondence](#)

[L.A. County Home Page](#)

[Contact Us](#)

Man Charged With Murder In Fatal Street Crash

October 11, 2007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contacts: [Joe Scott](#), Director of Communications

[Sandi Gibbons](#), Public Information Officer

[Jane Robison](#), News Secretary

(213) 974-3525

EL MONTE – A 19-year-old driver suspected of street racing and causing a fiery fatal collision that killed three people Monday night was charged today with three counts of murder, the District Attorney's office announced.

Robert Canizalez, (dob 8-16-88), is scheduled to be arraigned after 1:30 p.m. at El Monte Superior Court, Dept. 2. He is charged in case No. KA080781 with three counts of murder with the special allegation of causing great bodily injury, said Deputy District Attorney Barbara Bolante-Martinez, head deputy of the El Monte office. He is being held on \$3 million bail.

Canizalez allegedly was driving his red Ford Mustang on Parkway Drive, a residential street, when it slammed into another vehicle that was stopped. The Ford F-150 pickup truck burst into flames, trapping and killing a family of three -- 41-year-old Dora Groce and her two children, Robert, 8, and Catherine, 4.

Canizalez and a second suspect were allegedly street racing at the time of the accident. Police are searching for the second suspect. If convicted, Canizalez is facing up to life in prison.

jr

Please read our [Privacy Policy](#).

© 1994-2012 Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office. All Rights Reserved.



Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

[Home](#)

[Crimes of Violence](#)

[Working With Communities](#)

[Fraud & Corruption](#)

[Search](#)

[Meet the D.A.](#)

[Top Documents](#)

[Victim Services](#)

[Consumer Alert](#)

[Bureau of Investigation](#)

[Criminal Justice Institute](#)

[Newsroom](#)

[Job Listings](#)

[Office Overview](#)

[History of the Office](#)

[Office Locations](#)

[Office Directory](#)

[FAQs](#)

[Board Correspondence](#)

[L.A. County Home Page](#)

[Contact Us](#)

Murder Charged In Alleged "Road Rage" Case

October 11, 2007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contacts: [Joe Scott](#), Director of Communications

[Sandi Gibbons](#), Public Information Officer

[Jane Robison](#), News Secretary

(213) 974-3525

VAN NUYS – Two men involved in an alleged San Fernando Valley road rage case that ended with the death of a 5-year-old boy and injuries to his mother and younger sister were charged with murder today by the District Attorney's office.

The men were scheduled to be arraigned this afternoon in Van Nuys Superior Court.

Brian Gilbert Barnes, 44 (dob 6-1-1963), of Northridge, and Armando Gamboa Ayon, 19 (dob 5-10-1988), of Pacoima were charged in case No. LA 057069 with one count of murder, one count of vehicular manslaughter and three counts of reckless driving causing specific injury. Barnes additionally was charged with three counts of leaving the scene of an accident in which injury occurred. The complaint also alleged that one of the victims who received serious injury, a 2-month-old girl, is under the age of 5.

Bail was recommended at \$1.19 million for Barnes and \$1.04 million for Ayon.

Authorities said the crash occurred Tuesday afternoon on West Sherman Way between Balboa Boulevard and Louise Avenue in Reseda. A woman and her two children -- the 5-year-old boy and his 2-month-old sister -- were crushed between two parked cars. One of the parked vehicles was struck by a car driven by Ayon, who lost control during the driving dispute, offices said. Authorities said Barnes drove away.

The little boy died last night. His mother and sister remain hospitalized.

If convicted, each man faces a possible maximum prison term of life with the possibility of parole.

sg

Please read our [Privacy Policy](#).

© 1994-2012 Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office. All Rights Reserved.



Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

[Home](#)

[Crimes of Violence](#)

[Working With Communities](#)

[Fraud & Corruption](#)

[Search](#)

[Meet the D.A.](#)

[Top Documents](#)

[Victim Services](#)

[Consumer Alert](#)

[Bureau of Investigation](#)

[Criminal Justice Institute](#)

[Newsroom](#)

[Job Listings](#)

[Office Overview](#)

[History of the Office](#)

[Office Locations](#)

[Office Directory](#)

[FAQs](#)

[Board Correspondence](#)

[L.A. County Home Page](#)

[Contact Us](#)

Probation Officer Charged In Off-Duty Incident

October 11, 2007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contacts: [Joe Scott](#), Director of Communications

[Sandi Gibbons](#), Public Information Officer

[Jane Robison](#), News Secretary

(213) 974-3525

LONG BEACH – A county probation officer involved in an off-duty incident in Long Beach last month was charged by the District Attorney's Justice System Integrity Division today with assault on a peace officer and other crimes.

Jermaine Marcus Walton, 31 (dob 9-21-1976), is scheduled to be arraigned tomorrow in Department J of Long Beach Superior Court. Bail was recommended at \$97,000.

Walton was charged in case No. NA 075867 with three felony counts – assault on a peace officer, resisting an officer and vandalism with more than \$400 damage. He also was charged with two misdemeanor counts of vandalism of less than \$400 damage.

The complaint alleged the crimes occurred on Sept. 19.

Authorities said Walton was arrested after running in the nude down Santa Fe Avenue in Long Beach. He struck several vehicles head first and when police arrived, he allegedly refused commands and assaulted a detective.

If convicted, the defendant faces a possible maximum state prison term of eight years and four months.

Deputy District Attorney Susan Schwartz of JSID filed the case and will prosecute Walton.

sg

Please read our [Privacy Policy](#).

© 1994-2012 Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office. All Rights Reserved.



Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

[Home](#)

[Crimes of Violence](#)

[Working With Communities](#)

[Fraud & Corruption](#)

[Search](#)

[Meet the D.A.](#)

[Top Documents](#)

[Victim Services](#)

[Consumer Alert](#)

[Bureau of Investigation](#)

[Criminal Justice Institute](#)

[Newsroom](#)

[Job Listings](#)

[Office Overview](#)

[History of the Office](#)

[Office Locations](#)

[Office Directory](#)

[FAQs](#)

[Board Correspondence](#)

[L.A. County Home Page](#)

[Contact Us](#)

Alleged Street Gang Member Charged With Capital Murder

October 11, 2007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contacts: [Joe Scott](#), Director of Communications

[Sandi Gibbons](#), Public Information Officer

[Jane Robison](#), News Secretary

(213) 974-3525

LOS ANGELES – An alleged street gang member was charged by the District Attorney's Hardcore Gang Division today with capital murder in connection the death of a man who was gunned down on the street in the Rampart area of Los Angeles on Sept. 24.

Richard Alvarez, 21 (dob 4-25-1986), who goes by the street monikers of "Rockwood" and "Shadow," is scheduled to be arraigned tomorrow in Los Angeles Superior Court (Division 30).

Alvarez was charged in case No. BA 330270 with one count of murder with the special circumstance of gang murder. He also was charged with one count of robbery. The charges also carry the allegations that Alvarez personally used a handgun and the crimes were connected to criminal street gang activity.

A decision on whether to seek the death penalty against Alvarez will be made by the District Attorney's office as the case moves closer to trial.

Authorities said that on Sept. 24, Alvarez approached three people on the street and shot dead Erwin Escobar. An hour later, authorities said, the defendant robbed a catering truck and threw his handgun into the vehicle when he saw a Los Angeles police patrol car drive by.

Alvarez fled, but was captured a short time later. He has remained in custody since then, first on a parole violation and now without bail.

Deputy District Attorney Ellen Aragon of the Hardcore Gang Division was assigned to prosecute the case.

sg

Please read our [Privacy Policy](#).

© 1994-2012 Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office. All Rights Reserved.



Home

Crimes of Violence

Working With Communities

Fraud & Corruption

Search

Meet the D.A.

Top Documents

Victim Services

Consumer Alert

Bureau of Investigation

Criminal Justice Institute

Newsroom

Job Listings

Office Overview

History of the Office

Office Locations

Office Directory

FAQs

Board Correspondence

L.A. County Home Page

Contact Us

Statement by District Attorney Steve Cooley Regarding Anna Nicole Smith Matter

October 12, 2007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contacts: [Joe Scott](#), Director of Communications

[Sandi Gibbons](#), Public Information Officer

[Jane Robison](#), News Secretary

(213) 974-3525

The District Attorney's office has been working for several weeks with agents of the Bureau of Narcotic Enforcement in the Attorney General's office relative to search warrants in connection with the Anna Nicole Smith matter.

My office will evaluate results of these search warrants and file charges, as appropriate.

js

Please read our [Privacy Policy](#).

© 1994-2012 Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office. All Rights Reserved.



[Home](#)

[Crimes of Violence](#)

[Working With Communities](#)

[Fraud & Corruption](#)

[Search](#)

[Meet the D.A.](#)

[Top Documents](#)

[Victim Services](#)

[Consumer Alert](#)

[Bureau of Investigation](#)

[Criminal Justice Institute](#)

[Newsroom](#)

[Job Listings](#)

[Office Overview](#)

[History of the Office](#)

[Office Locations](#)

[Office Directory](#)

[FAQs](#)

[Board Correspondence](#)

[L.A. County Home Page](#)

[Contact Us](#)

ATTN: NEWS & ASSIGNMENT EDITORS -- RESCUE Youth Program Recognition Ceremony

October 12, 2007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contacts: [Joe Scott](#), Director of Communications

[Sandi Gibbons](#), Public Information Officer

[Jane Robison](#), News Secretary

(213) 974-3525

District Attorney Steve Cooley will be joined by Los Angeles County Fire Chief P. Michael Freeman, Long Beach Deputy Chief Michael Garcia and Montebello Fire Chief James Murphy on Sunday, Oct. 14, to honor 80 RESCUE graduates and 200 firefighter-mentors at the 15th Annual RESCUE Recognition Ceremony.

The RESCUE Recognition Ceremony will take place from 9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. at Universal Studios Hollywood, 100 Universal City Plaza, Universal City.

Among those honored will be Robert Jauregui, 22, whose life could have gone up in flames – figuratively speaking. At 13, the Pomona youth had zero respect for authority and struggled in school. RESCUE changed his life, he says.

RESCUE firefighters work one-on-one with students to build self-confidence, instill discipline and encourage academic improvement. Since 1992, hundreds of students ages 12 to 14 have completed the RESCUE program, a crime prevention initiative in partnership with the Los Angeles County, Long Beach and Montebello fire departments.

For more information, please contact Angela Valenzuela at (213) 610-9324 or Shiara M. Dávila at (213) 440-0425.

jr

Please read our [Privacy Policy](#).



Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

[Home](#)

[Crimes of Violence](#)

[Working With Communities](#)

[Fraud & Corruption](#)

[Search](#)

[Meet the D.A.](#)

[Top Documents](#)

[Victim Services](#)

[Consumer Alert](#)

[Bureau of Investigation](#)

[Criminal Justice Institute](#)

[Newsroom](#)

[Job Listings](#)

[Office Overview](#)

[History of the Office](#)

[Office Locations](#)

[Office Directory](#)

[FAQs](#)

[Board Correspondence](#)

[L.A. County Home Page](#)

[Contact Us](#)

Two Municipal Engineers Held to Answer On Charges They Illegally Accessed the City's Traffic Computer

October 12, 2007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contacts: [Joe Scott](#), Director of Communications

[Sandi Gibbons](#), Public Information Officer

[Jane Robison](#), News Secretary

(213) 974-3525

LOS ANGELES – A Superior Court judge ordered two engineers today to stand trial on felony charges that they illegally accessed the city's computer that controls Los Angeles traffic lights prior to a job action last year.

Judge Samuel Mayerson also made a factual finding that although the activity of the defendants was not hacking because they normally had access to the computer, a city employee cannot use this access to disrupt functions. Deputy District Attorney Jonathan Fairtlough said the judge noted that such behavior amounts to "sabotage."

Gabriel Murillo, 38, and Kartik Patel, 34, both engineers with the city's Automated Traffic Surveillance Center, were charged in January with illegally going into the computer that controls traffic signals throughout the city. Although signals were sent to four boxes throughout the city, only one signal actually malfunctioned. That, Fairtlough said, was at First and Main streets – right outside City Hall.

Murillo and Patel were held to answer on one count of computer intrusion to alter or destroy data. Patel additionally was held to answer on four counts of disruption/denial of computer services. Murillo was held to answer on an additional charge of identity theft.

Fairtlough, with the District Attorney's High Tech Crimes Division, said the men are to appear on Oct. 23 in Department 119 of Los Angeles Superior Court for arraignment and plea on an information – a charging document that is filed after a preliminary hearing. Neither man is in custody.

Murillo was accused of accessing the data base to allow him and Patel to make changes to the system and bar others from correcting the problems. The illegal access occurred hours before a job action by members of the Engineers and Architects Association, which represents the engineers who run and maintain the city's traffic center.

Authorities said it took four days to get the city's traffic control system fully operational.

When the case was filed, District Attorney Steve Cooley noted, "This amounts to sabotage and not to be tolerated, no matter what the dispute or cause."

sg

Please read our [Privacy Policy](#).

© 1994-2012 Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office. All Rights Reserved.



Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

[Home](#)

[Crimes of Violence](#)

[Working With Communities](#)

[Fraud & Corruption](#)

[Search](#)

[Meet the D.A.](#)

[Top Documents](#)

[Victim Services](#)

[Consumer Alert](#)

[Bureau of Investigation](#)

[Criminal Justice Institute](#)

[Newsroom](#)

[Job Listings](#)

[Office Overview](#)

[History of the Office](#)

[Office Locations](#)

[Office Directory](#)

[FAQs](#)

[Board Correspondence](#)

[L.A. County Home Page](#)

[Contact Us](#)

D.A. Recognized for Work Against Animal Cruelty

October 17, 2007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contacts: [Joe Scott](#), Director of Communications

[Sandi Gibbons](#), Public Information Officer

[Jane Robison](#), News Secretary

(213) 974-3525

LOS ANGELES -- For his work on behalf of animals, Los Angeles County District Attorney Steve Cooley has received the 2007 Humane Law Enforcement Award from The Humane Society of The United States and the National District Attorneys Association.

The award, presented Oct. 13 in Alexandria, Va., recognizes Cooley's progressive leadership and vision.

"Animal cruelty will not be tolerated in this county," Cooley said. "Persons who torture and kill animals deserve to be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law. It's important to recognize that – in the larger picture – this program may break the link between animal cruelty and violence against people."

Earlier this year, Cooley named Deputy District Attorney Deborah Knaan Animal Cruelty Case Coordinator to head an innovative new program designed to better train prosecutors and law enforcement officers throughout Los Angeles County on investigating and prosecuting animal abuse cases.

Knaan will use her extensive experience in animal-related issues to create guidelines on prosecuting animal cruelty cases, raise public awareness about animal abuse, establish a tip line for residents to report animal cruelty and train deputy district attorneys and law enforcement personnel to investigate and prosecute animal abuse cases. A deputy district attorney will be designated in each of the District Attorney's 11 branch offices to prosecute such cases.

Although a career prosecutor, Knaan took a leave of absence to serve as assistant general manager of operations for the Los Angeles City Department of Animal Services. There, she was responsible for six city animal shelters and supervised field officers who investigated animal abuse cases. She also served on the city's Board of Animal Services Commission from 2004 to 2006.

Since January, 40 animal cruelty cases have been filed in Los Angeles

County. The District Attorney's Office has 138 open and/or inactive animal cruelty cases dating back to 2000.

sd

Please read our [Privacy Policy](#).

© 1994-2012 Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office. All Rights Reserved.



[Home](#)

[Crimes of Violence](#)

[Working With Communities](#)

[Fraud & Corruption](#)

[Search](#)

[Meet the D.A.](#)

[Top Documents](#)

[Victim Services](#)

[Consumer Alert](#)

[Bureau of Investigation](#)

[Criminal Justice Institute](#)

[Newsroom](#)

[Job Listings](#)

[Office Overview](#)

[History of the Office](#)

[Office Locations](#)

[Office Directory](#)

[FAQs](#)

[Board Correspondence](#)

[L.A. County Home Page](#)

[Contact Us](#)

D.A., Courts Partner Graphic Anti-Drug Street Theater Aimed at Keeping Youngsters Off Drugs

October 18, 2007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contacts: [Joe Scott](#), Director of Communications

[Sandi Gibbons](#), Public Information Officer

[Jane Robison](#), News Secretary

(213) 974-3525

COMMERCE – More than 1,200 students from the Montebello Unified School District (MUSD) will witness the perils of drug use next week in a sobering production called the Drug Store.

Student actors will depict the consequences of substance abuse – including arrest, prosecution, incarceration and death – alongside law enforcement officers, deputy district attorneys, judges, emergency medical personnel and clergy. The three-day event beginning on Tuesday, Oct. 23, will be held from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Rosewood Park, 5600 Harbor St., Commerce.

“The Drug Store is a powerful tool to keep youth from experimenting with drugs,” said District Attorney Steve Cooley. “This drug education program allows students to see the criminal justice system in action and compels them to reflect on the destructive impact of substance abuse.”

The City of Commerce piloted the program this year in response to a spike in the number of methamphetamine-related arrests in the city. The program’s primary goal is to educate students about the consequences and harsh realities of drug abuse.

The production takes students through an eight-stage performance that begins with the arrest of one of their classmates for stealing drugs from an educational exhibit. With real lawyers and judges in the audience the offending child is taken through the criminal justice system, including trial and incarceration. Each half-day session ends with a child’s death from an overdose and a mock funeral.

“The Superior Court is committed to efforts to educate school children as to the dangers of drug abuse,” said Presiding Judge of the Los Angeles Superior Court, Judge J. Stephen Czuleger. “We are excited by the

presentation of this information in such a novel way and pleased to be working with so many agencies in this worthwhile effort. It is our hope that reaching children of this age will have a positive influence on the choices they make in the future.”

The Drug Store, a \$15,000 initiative subsidized by public-private funding, is a joint effort of the Los Angeles County District Attorney’s Office, the Los Angeles County Superior Court, the California Department of Justice Bureau of Narcotics Enforcement, the Montebello Unified School District, City of Commerce and local law enforcement agencies.

Sixth-grade students from five MUSD schools – Bell Gardens Intermediate, Laguna Nueva Elementary, Macy Intermediate, Rosewood School and Suva Intermediate – will participate.

EDITORS: A news conference will be held Wednesday, Oct. 24, at 11:30 a. m. at Rosewood Park, 5600 Harbor Street, Commerce (Thomas Bros. Page 675-G3). Reporters are invited to navigate the eight-stage Drug Store course with students beginning at 9 a.m. daily. For more information, please contact Shiara M. Dávila, District Attorney’s Office, (213) 974-7401 or Mary Eckhardt Hearn, Superior Court, (213) 974-5227.

smd

Please read our [Privacy Policy](#).

© 1994-2012 Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office. All Rights Reserved.



Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

[Home](#)[Crimes of Violence](#)[Working With Communities](#)[Fraud & Corruption](#)[Search](#)[Meet the D.A.](#)[Top Documents](#)[Victim Services](#)[Consumer Alert](#)[Bureau of Investigation](#)[Criminal Justice Institute](#)[Newsroom](#)[Job Listings](#)[Office Overview](#)[History of the Office](#)[Office Locations](#)[Office Directory](#)[FAQs](#)[Board Correspondence](#)[L.A. County Home Page](#)[Contact Us](#)

Management Firm Pays More Than a Half-Million Dollars in Consumer Action

October 19, 2007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contacts: [Joe Scott](#), Director of Communications

[Sandi Gibbons](#), Public Information Officer

[Jane Robison](#), News Secretary

(213) 974-3525

LOS ANGELES – Of the nation's largest apartment management firms agreed today to pay more than a half-million dollars in costs and penalties as part of a stipulated judgment in a consumer protection lawsuit brought by the District Attorneys of Los Angeles, Santa Clara and San Diego counties.

The lawsuit and stipulated judgment filed today in Santa Clara Superior Court involves the way Colorado-based Archstone-Smith Communities LLC billed tenants for water usage. The company agreed, without admission of wrongdoing, to follow California law when invoicing tenants for water usage and to properly install all meters. The company also agreed to register and pay the required annual fees to the various counties where its properties are located.

"Our responsibility is to ensure that consumers are protected and not overcharged for something as vital as water," said Los Angeles County District Attorney Steve Cooley. "That's why I joined with District Attorneys Delores Carr of Santa Clara and Bonnie Dumanis of San Diego in this civil lawsuit that affects consumers in all three counties."

Archstone-Smith, headquartered in Colorado, acquires, builds and operates apartment complexes throughout the United States. Locations in Los Angeles County include complexes in Agoura Hills, Long Beach and Calabasas.

The civil lawsuit alleged that Archstone-Smith used sub-meters to monitor tenant water usage at several of its apartment complexes in the three counties. The company allegedly presented tenants water bills based on partially unmetered, estimated measurements. Pertinent information such as the opening and closing meter readings and water rates were missing in some billings, according to the lawsuit.

It also was alleged that the firm used water meters that were not tested or sealed. In some cases, the meter gauge could not be read by the tenant. And, the lawsuit alleged, the firm failed to pay required device registration fees.

Archstone-Smith will pay \$488,706 in civil penalties and \$93,000 in prosecution costs. The Los Angeles, Santa Clara and San Diego District Attorneys each will receive a third of the penalties and costs.

The investigation was conducted by the Measurement Compliance Program of the California Department of Food and Agriculture's Division of Measurement Standards and eight County Weights and Measure Sealers. They will receive \$52,434 for the cost of the investigation.

Registration fees of \$44,802 will be paid by the firm to 10 California County Sealers, including the three counties that filed the lawsuit.

Restitution also was part of the agreement. The amount will be determined at a later time. The violations that were outlined in the civil lawsuit occurred between June 16, 2002, and July 30, 2005.

Deputy District Attorney Stuart C. Lytton of the Los Angeles District Attorney's Consumer Protection Division handled the case, along with counterparts in Santa Clara and San Diego counties.

Lytton said that Archstone-Smith, which recently was acquired by Tishman Speyer Read Estate Venture VII, L.P. and Lehman Brothers Holdings Inc., was cooperative during the investigation.

-0-

Editors: Lytton may be reached at 213-580-3273.

sg

Please read our [Privacy Policy](#).

© 1994-2012 Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office. All Rights Reserved.



Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

Home

Crimes of Violence

Working With Communities

Fraud & Corruption

Search

Meet the D.A.

Top Documents

Victim Services

Consumer Alert

Bureau of Investigation

Criminal Justice Institute

Newsroom

Job Listings

Office Overview

History of the Office

Office Locations

Office Directory

FAQs

Board Correspondence

L.A. County Home Page

Contact Us

Canoga Park Man Convicted of Murdering UCSB Student

October 19, 2007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contacts: [Joe Scott](#), Director of Communications

[Sandi Gibbons](#), Public Information Officer

[Jane Robison](#), News Secretary

(213) 974-3525

SAN FERNANDO – A San Fernando Superior Court jury after a little more than a day's deliberation convicted a 22-year-old Canoga Park man of murder today in connection with last year's fatal stabbing of a University of California, Santa Barbara student.

Deputy District Attorney Lou Holtz Jr. said the jury convicted Lawrence Ray Davila of one count of second-degree murder and found that the defendant used a knife to kill David De A'Morelli, 26, on June 24, 2006. Holtz, who had asked for the second-degree murder conviction, said the defendant faces a 16-year-to-life prison term when he appears for sentencing by trial Judge Charles Peven on Nov. 6.

Holtz said the victim was killed just after midnight when he started talking to Davila, who was leaning against the victim's car in Granada Hills. Davila was waiting for a ride. The fatal stabbing occurred after Davila's ride showed up and before he got into his friend's pickup truck and drove away.

De A'Morelli was stabbed six times. Davila was arrested about a month after the killing and has remained in custody in lieu of just over \$1 million bail.

sg

Please read our [Privacy Policy](#).

© 1994-2012 Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office. All Rights Reserved.



[Home](#)

[Crimes of Violence](#)

[Working With Communities](#)

[Fraud & Corruption](#)

[Search](#)

[Meet the D.A.](#)

[Top Documents](#)

[Victim Services](#)

[Consumer Alert](#)

[Bureau of Investigation](#)

[Criminal Justice Institute](#)

[Newsroom](#)

[Job Listings](#)

[Office Overview](#)

[History of the Office](#)

[Office Locations](#)

[Office Directory](#)

[FAQs](#)

[Board Correspondence](#)

[L.A. County Home Page](#)

[Contact Us](#)

ATTN: News & Assignment Editors

D.A., Court Partner in Graphic Street Theater Aimed at Keeping Youngsters Off Drugs

October 22, 2007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contacts: [Joe Scott](#), Director of Communications

[Sandi Gibbons](#), Public Information Officer

[Jane Robison](#), News Secretary

(213) 974-3525

Beginning Tuesday, Oct. 23, more than 1,200 students from the Montebello Unified School District will witness the perils of drug use during a three-day sobering production called the Drug Store.

Student actors will depict the consequences of substance abuse – including arrest, prosecution, incarceration and death – alongside law enforcement officers, deputy district attorneys, judges, emergency medical personnel and clergy.

The Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday event will run each day from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Rosewood Park, 5600 Harbor St., Commerce.

A news conference will be held at 11:30 a.m. Wednesday at Rosewood Park in Commerce. Reporters are invited to navigate the eight-stage Drug Store course with students.

The Drug Store is a joint effort of the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office, the Los Angeles County Superior Court, the California Department of Justice Bureau of Narcotics Enforcement, the Montebello Unified School District, City of Commerce and local law enforcement agencies.

For more information, please contact Shiara M. Dávila, District Attorney's Office, (213) 440-0425 or Mary Eckhardt Hearn, Superior Court, (213) 974-5227.

smd

Please read our [Privacy Policy](#).

© 1994-2012 Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office. All Rights Reserved.



Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

[Home](#)

[Crimes of Violence](#)

[Working With Communities](#)

[Fraud & Corruption](#)

[Search](#)

[Meet the D.A.](#)

[Top Documents](#)

[Victim Services](#)

[Consumer Alert](#)

[Bureau of Investigation](#)

[Criminal Justice Institute](#)

[Newsroom](#)

[Job Listings](#)

[Office Overview](#)

[History of the Office](#)

[Office Locations](#)

[Office Directory](#)

[FAQs](#)

[Board Correspondence](#)

[L.A. County Home Page](#)

[Contact Us](#)

Teen Charged with Murder in Fatal Street Racing Accident

October 23, 2007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contacts: [Joe Scott](#), Director of Communications

[Sandi Gibbons](#), Public Information Officer

[Jane Robison](#), News Secretary

(213) 974-3525

EL MONTE – An 18-year-old was charged today with murder and other charges in connection with the Oct. 7 fatal street racing accident in Pico Rivera, the District Attorney's office announced.

Fitzgerald Paragas, (dob 8-31-89), is charged in case No. KA080891 with one count of murder with the special allegation of causing great bodily injury; one count of vehicular manslaughter and four counts of reckless driving causing injury – all felonies. He also is charged with misdemeanor street racing. Prosecutors are asking bail be set at \$1.1 million.

Paragas and the victim, Brian Ramirez, who were friends, allegedly were racing their cars on Rosemead Boulevard at speeds reaching 90 mph. Both drivers allegedly passed at least four other cars before the Ramirez car swerved across lanes, traveled across the raised center median and into opposing northbound lanes of traffic, crashing into a Volkswagen Jetta. Ramirez was killed and four people inside the Jetta were seriously injured.

Paragas was arrested on Oct. 8 and released on bail. He is scheduled to be arraigned Monday, Oct. 29, in Rio Hondo Superior Court, Dept. 3.

jr

Please read our [Privacy Policy](#).

© 1994-2012 Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office. All Rights Reserved.



[Home](#)

[Crimes of Violence](#)

[Working With Communities](#)

[Fraud & Corruption](#)

[Search](#)

[Meet the D.A.](#)

[Top Documents](#)

[Victim Services](#)

[Consumer Alert](#)

[Bureau of Investigation](#)

[Criminal Justice Institute](#)

[Newsroom](#)

[Job Listings](#)

[Office Overview](#)

[History of the Office](#)

[Office Locations](#)

[Office Directory](#)

[FAQs](#)

[Board Correspondence](#)

[L.A. County Home Page](#)

[Contact Us](#)

D.A., Court Partner in Graphic Street Theater Aimed at Keeping Youngsters Off Drugs

October 23, 2007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contacts: [Joe Scott](#), Director of Communications

[Sandi Gibbons](#), Public Information Officer

[Jane Robison](#), News Secretary

(213) 974-3525

Beginning today, more than 1,200 students from the Montebello Unified School District will witness the perils of drug use during a three-day sobering production called the Drug Store.

Student actors will depict the consequences of substance abuse – including arrest, prosecution, incarceration and death – alongside law enforcement officers, deputy district attorneys, judges, emergency medical personnel and clergy.

The Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday event will run each day from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Rosewood Park, 5600 Harbor St., Commerce.

A news conference will be held at 11:30 a.m. Wednesday at Rosewood Park in Commerce. Reporters are invited to navigate the eight-stage Drug Store course with students.

The Drug Store is a joint effort of the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office, the Los Angeles County Superior Court, the California Department of Justice Bureau of Narcotics Enforcement, the Montebello Unified School District, City of Commerce and local law enforcement agencies.

For more information, please contact Shiara M. Dávila, District Attorney's Office, (213) 440-0425 or Mary Eckhardt Hearn, Superior Court, (213) 974-5227.

smd

Please read our [Privacy Policy](#).

© 1994-2012 Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office. All Rights Reserved.



[Home](#)

[Crimes of Violence](#)

[Working With Communities](#)

[Fraud & Corruption](#)

[Search](#)

[Meet the D.A.](#)

[Top Documents](#)

[Victim Services](#)

[Consumer Alert](#)

[Bureau of Investigation](#)

[Criminal Justice Institute](#)

[Newsroom](#)

[Job Listings](#)

[Office Overview](#)

[History of the Office](#)

[Office Locations](#)

[Office Directory](#)

[FAQs](#)

[Board Correspondence](#)

[L.A. County Home Page](#)

[Contact Us](#)

Gang Leader Convicted in Capital, Multiple-Murder Case

October 25, 2007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contacts: [Joe Scott](#), Director of Communications

[Sandi Gibbons](#), Public Information Officer

[Jane Robison](#), News Secretary

(213) 974-3525

LOS ANGELES – The 34-year-old leader of a northeast Los Angeles gang was found guilty today of three gang-related murders and four attempted murders, the District Attorney's Office announced. The death penalty phase begins Friday.

A Los Angeles Superior Court jury found Timothy Joseph McGhee guilty of the murders of Margie Mendoza; Ronnie Martin, a gang member who was shot 28 times; and Ryan Gonzales, a rival gang member, said Deputy District Attorney Hoon Chun of the Major Crime Division.

The Toonerville gang boss also was found guilty of four counts of attempted murder, including a 1997 ambush attack on LAPD patrol officers who were engaged in a car chase with Toonerville gang members. McGhee was convicted of opening fire on the patrol car and two police officers who were in pursuit. The officers were not injured, Chun said.

The jury acquitted McGhee of two attempted murder charges.

The murders and attempted murders were carried out over a four-year rampage to maintain control of narcotics distribution in the Atwater Village area of Los Angeles.

McGhee was arrested Feb. 12, 2003 in Bullhead City, Ariz., following a nationwide manhunt. At one time he led about 200 gang members who claim an area around Los Feliz Boulevard between San Fernando Road and the Los Angeles River, police said.

jr

Please read our [Privacy Policy](#).

© 1994-2012 Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office. All Rights Reserved.



Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

[Home](#)

[Crimes of Violence](#)

[Working With Communities](#)

[Fraud & Corruption](#)

[Search](#)

[Meet the D.A.](#)

[Top Documents](#)

[Victim Services](#)

[Consumer Alert](#)

[Bureau of Investigation](#)

[Criminal Justice Institute](#)

[Newsroom](#)

[Job Listings](#)

[Office Overview](#)

[History of the Office](#)

[Office Locations](#)

[Office Directory](#)

[FAQs](#)

[Board Correspondence](#)

[L.A. County Home Page](#)

[Contact Us](#)

Sun Valley Man Charged with Arson

October 26, 2007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contacts: [Joe Scott](#), Director of Communications

[Sandi Gibbons](#), Public Information Officer

[Jane Robison](#), News Secretary

(213) 974-3525

VAN NUYS – A 41-year-old Sun Valley man suspected of starting a fire in the West Hills area Wednesday has been charged with arson, the District Attorney's office announced today.

Catalino Pineda, (dob 4-30-66), is scheduled to be arraigned some time this morning in Van Nuys Superior Court, Dept. 100, said Deputy District Attorney Steven Frankland. He is charged in case No. LA057176 with one count of arson of a structure or forest.

Witnesses allegedly spotted Pineda lighting a fire on a hillside near Del Valle Street and Ponce Avenue about 4:30 p.m. Wednesday and walk away, police said. The fire was quickly extinguished.

Witnesses followed Pineda to a nearby restaurant and notified police, who arrested him. He is being held on \$75,000 bail. If convicted, he faces up to six years in state prison.

jr

Please read our [Privacy Policy](#).

© 1994-2012 Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office. All Rights Reserved.



Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

[Home](#)

[Crimes of Violence](#)

[Working With Communities](#)

[Fraud & Corruption](#)

[Search](#)

[Meet the D.A.](#)

[Top Documents](#)

[Victim Services](#)

[Consumer Alert](#)

[Bureau of Investigation](#)

[Criminal Justice Institute](#)

[Newsroom](#)

[Job Listings](#)

[Office Overview](#)

[History of the Office](#)

[Office Locations](#)

[Office Directory](#)

[FAQs](#)

[Board Correspondence](#)

[L.A. County Home Page](#)

[Contact Us](#)

Man Charged in Sexual Assault Murder of Elderly Woman

October 30, 2007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contacts: [Joe Scott](#), Director of Communications

[Sandi Gibbons](#), Public Information Officer

[Jane Robison](#), News Secretary

(213) 974-3525

TORRANCE – A capital murder charge was filed today against a 24-year-old man accused of sexually assaulting and fatally beating a 76-year-old woman in Gardena last month.

Deputy District Attorney Michael Gargiulo, head of the Elder Abuse Section, said Thedward Candler (dob 3-14-1983) is scheduled to appear tomorrow for arraignment in Department 4, Torrance Superior Court.

Candler was charged in case No. YA 069803 with one count of murder with the special circumstances of murder during rape and sodomy. The defendant, arrested by Sheriff's Homicide investigators on Oct. 25, was being held without bail.

Gargiulo said the victim, Severa Madrona, was out for a morning walk in Gardena on Sept. 18. Her body was found dumped in the backyard of a home at 152nd Street and Eriel Avenue in Gardena. Gargiulo said the victim had been sexually assaulted and beaten. She died of a blunt force head wound, he said.

Although filed as a capital case, a decision on whether to seek the death penalty against Candler will not be made until the case moves closer to trial.

sg

Please read our [Privacy Policy](#).

© 1994-2012 Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office. All Rights Reserved.



Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

[Home](#)

[Crimes of Violence](#)

[Working With Communities](#)

[Fraud & Corruption](#)

[Search](#)

[Meet the D.A.](#)

[Top Documents](#)

[Victim Services](#)

[Consumer Alert](#)

[Bureau of Investigation](#)

[Criminal Justice Institute](#)

[Newsroom](#)

[Job Listings](#)

[Office Overview](#)

[History of the Office](#)

[Office Locations](#)

[Office Directory](#)

[FAQs](#)

[Board Correspondence](#)

[L.A. County Home Page](#)

[Contact Us](#)

Sheriff's Deputy Accused of Physical Abuse of Young Family Member

October 30, 2007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contacts: [Joe Scott](#), Director of Communications

[Sandi Gibbons](#), Public Information Officer

[Jane Robison](#), News Secretary

(213) 974-3525

LOS ANGELES – A Sheriff's deputy was charged today with corporal injury to a child and other felony crimes stemming from her alleged treatment of an 8-year-old family member who was living with her at the time, the District Attorney's office announced.

Deputy District Attorney Susan Schwartz of the Justice System Integrity Division filed case No. BA331085 today as a felony complaint for arrest warrant against Deana Santino, 32 (dob 12-23-1974). The defendant was arrested by Sheriff's investigators and was expected to appear for arraignment tomorrow in Los Angeles Superior Court.

The complaint charges Santino with two counts of corporal injury to a child, two counts of false imprisonment by violence and one count of assault by means likely to produce great bodily injury. The complaint alleged the crimes occurred between April 15 and Oct. 20 of last year.

Authorities said the victim, a boy, was living with Santino at the time of the alleged crimes. The complaint did not alleged specifics of the alleged attacks.

Schwartz said that if convicted, Santino could be sentenced to a maximum of nine years and eight months in state prison. Bail was recommended at \$170,000.

sg

Please read our [Privacy Policy](#).



Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

[Home](#)

[Crimes of Violence](#)

[Working With Communities](#)

[Fraud & Corruption](#)

[Search](#)

[Meet the D.A.](#)

[Top Documents](#)

[Victim Services](#)

[Consumer Alert](#)

[Bureau of Investigation](#)

[Criminal Justice Institute](#)

[Newsroom](#)

[Job Listings](#)

[Office Overview](#)

[History of the Office](#)

[Office Locations](#)

[Office Directory](#)

[FAQs](#)

[Board Correspondence](#)

[L.A. County Home Page](#)

[Contact Us](#)

Former "Prison Break" Actor Sentenced to Prison for Fatal Car Crash

October 31, 2007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contacts: [Joe Scott](#), Director of Communications

[Sandi Gibbons](#), Public Information Officer

[Jane Robison](#), News Secretary

(213) 974-3525

Beverly Hills – Actor Lane Garrison was sentenced today to three years and four months in state prison for a December 2006 car crash in Beverly Hills that left one of his three teenage passengers dead and the other two injured.

The sentence was imposed by Beverly Hills Superior Court Judge Elden S. Fox after a lengthy and sometimes emotional hearing in which Deputy District Attorney Joseph Markus asked that Garrison be sentenced to four years in prison and the actor's attorneys requested probation.

Garrison, 27, pleaded guilty in May to one count each of vehicular manslaughter without gross negligence and driving under the influence causing injury to multiple victims. He pleaded guilty to a misdemeanor charge of furnishing alcohol to a minor. The actor also admitted the allegations that he caused great bodily injury and death, and that he was driving with a blood alcohol level of more than .15 percent.

After a sentencing hearing in August, the judge ordered that Garrison undergo a diagnostic study done by state prison personnel to assist him in sentencing the defendant.

In telling Garrison that he was denying the request for probation, Fox stressed that he was handling the actor's case as he would any defendant similarly charged. "I think the public has a right to know that conduct causing devastation such as this needs to be punished," the judge said.

Garrison was driving his 2001 Land Rover when it hit a curb and struck a tree on South Beverly Drive near Olympic Boulevard on Dec. 2, 2006. One of his passengers, 17-year-old Vahagn Setian, was killed. The other two passengers, girls then 15 and 16, were injured, but recovered.

As part of today's sentence, Fox ordered Garrison to pay nearly \$300,000 in restitution to the victims. He also was fined \$400.

sg

Please read our [Privacy Policy](#).

© 1994-2012 Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office. All Rights Reserved.



Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

Home

Crimes of Violence

Working With Communities

Fraud & Corruption

Search

Meet the D.A.

Top Documents

Victim Services

Consumer Alert

Bureau of Investigation

Criminal Justice Institute

Newsroom

Job Listings

Office Overview

History of the Office

Office Locations

Office Directory

FAQs

Board Correspondence

L.A. County Home Page

Contact Us

Orange County Man Charged in Pipe Bomb Explosion

October 31, 2007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contacts: [Joe Scott](#), Director of Communications

[Sandi Gibbons](#), Public Information Officer

[Jane Robison](#), News Secretary

(213) 974-3525

LONG BEACH – A 47-year-old Huntington Beach man suspected of detonating an explosive device in an occupied parking structure has been charged with four felony counts, the District Attorney's Office announced today.

William Joseph Peltier, (dob 3-01-60), was scheduled to be arraigned in Long Beach Superior Court, Dept. J, this afternoon. He is charged in case No. NA076289 with one count each of use of a destructive device, possession of a destructive device, transportation of a destructive device and possession of an explosive device.

The defendant is on parole and the complaint lists prior convictions dating back to 1986. He was arrested Monday by Long Beach police. The complaint filed by Deputy District Attorney Karen Thorp alleges that the crimes occurred Oct. 20.

Authorities believe the defendant detonated a pipe bomb inside the parking structure above Rock Bottom Brewery at 111 W. Ocean Ave. in Long Beach. The blast shook the building, neighboring buildings and damaged two vehicles, Thorp said.

Bail was recommended at \$2 million.

smd

Please read our [Privacy Policy](#).



Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

[Home](#)

[Crimes of Violence](#)

[Working With Communities](#)

[Fraud & Corruption](#)

[Search](#)

[Meet the D.A.](#)

[Top Documents](#)

[Victim Services](#)

[Consumer Alert](#)

[Bureau of Investigation](#)

[Criminal Justice Institute](#)

[Newsroom](#)

[Job Listings](#)

[Office Overview](#)

[History of the Office](#)

[Office Locations](#)

[Office Directory](#)

[FAQs](#)

[Board Correspondence](#)

[L.A. County Home Page](#)

[Contact Us](#)

Lancaster Man Charged with Child Molestation

September 4, 2007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contacts: [Joe Scott](#), Director of Communications

[Sandi Gibbons](#), Public Information Officer

[Jane Robison](#), News Secretary

(213) 974-3525

LANCASTER – A 21-year-old Lancaster man was charged today with multiple counts of child molestation and attempted lewd acts with a child involving 10 girls under the age of 14, the District Attorney's office announced.

Andrew Zach Ortega, (dob 6-24-86), is scheduled to be arraigned after 2 p. m. at Antelope Valley Superior Court, Div. A1. He is charged in case No. MA039687 with 10 counts, including six felonies and four misdemeanors, said Deputy District Attorney Kelly Cromer.

Ortega allegedly approached two girls on the Sierra Elementary School campus in Lancaster about 7:30 a.m. on Aug. 23 and asked them questions before running away. That same day, he allegedly went to a second Lancaster school, Mariposa Elementary, and molested one girl and tried to molest three other girls. On Aug. 28, Ortega allegedly went back to Sierra and molested three young girls before being chased away by a school employee. He was arrested Aug. 30 by Los Angeles County Sheriff's deputies.

jr

Please read our [Privacy Policy](#).

© 1994-2012 Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office. All Rights Reserved.



Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

[Home](#)

[Crimes of Violence](#)

[Working With Communities](#)

[Fraud & Corruption](#)

[Search](#)

[Meet the D.A.](#)

[Top Documents](#)

[Victim Services](#)

[Consumer Alert](#)

[Bureau of Investigation](#)

[Criminal Justice Institute](#)

[Newsroom](#)

[Job Listings](#)

[Office Overview](#)

[History of the Office](#)

[Office Locations](#)

[Office Directory](#)

[FAQs](#)

[Board Correspondence](#)

[L.A. County Home Page](#)

[Contact Us](#)

Two Women Charged with Unlicensed Practice of Medicine

September 7, 2007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contacts: [Joe Scott](#), Director of Communications

[Sandi Gibbons](#), Public Information Officer

[Jane Robison](#), News Secretary

(213) 974-3525

LOS ANGELES – A Granada Hills woman who allegedly managed four medical clinics in Los Angeles County has been charged with practicing medicine without a license, and her sister, who worked at the clinics, has been charged with aiding or abetting the practice of medicine without a license, the District Attorney's office announced today.

Bertha Bugarin, 47, is charged in case number BA328497 with five felony counts of practicing medicine without certification and two misdemeanor counts of dispensing medication without a license. Her sister, Raquel Bugarin, 49, of Los Angeles, is charged in the same complaint with five felony counts of aiding or abetting the practice of medicine without certification.

Bertha Bugarin allegedly managed medical clinics in Panorama City, Baldwin Park, Los Angeles and Huntington Park. When physicians were not in the office, she allegedly performed medical procedures on five patients. In some incidents, she was allegedly assisted by her sister, Raquel Bugarin. The incidents allegedly occurred in February and March.

The Health Authority Law Enforcement Task force (HALT) conducted an investigation and executed a search warrant at the clinics in August 2007. HALT is a multi-agency, multi-jurisdictional task force that is overseen by the county Department of Public Health. The task force is responsible for investigating crimes that impact public health.

Bertha Bugarin was arrested Aug. 1 and released on \$500,000 bail. Raquel Bugarin was arrested Thursday and released on \$100,000 bail. They are scheduled to be arraigned Oct. 2 at the Foltz Criminal Justice Center, Division 30. If convicted, each faces up to five years, eight months in state prison.

Deputy District Attorney Carolyn Nakaki, with the Consumer Protection Division, is assigned to prosecute the case.

jr

Please read our [Privacy Policy](#).

© 1994-2012 Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office. All Rights Reserved.



Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

[Home](#)

[Crimes of Violence](#)

[Working With Communities](#)

[Fraud & Corruption](#)

[Search](#)

[Meet the D.A.](#)

[Top Documents](#)

[Victim Services](#)

[Consumer Alert](#)

[Bureau of Investigation](#)

[Criminal Justice Institute](#)

[Newsroom](#)

[Job Listings](#)

[Office Overview](#)

[History of the Office](#)

[Office Locations](#)

[Office Directory](#)

[FAQs](#)

[Board Correspondence](#)

[L.A. County Home Page](#)

[Contact Us](#)

ATTN: News & Assignment Editors Expanding Use of DNA Data Bank

September 7, 2007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contacts: [Joe Scott](#), Director of Communications

[Sandi Gibbons](#), Public Information Officer

[Jane Robison](#), News Secretary

(213) 974-3525

Dist. Atty. Steve Cooley and California Attorney General Jerry Brown will hold a press conference at 11:30 a.m. Monday, Sept. 10, to discuss expanding the uses of California's DNA data bank. Also attending will be Orange County Dist. Atty. Tony Rackauckas and Denver Dist. Atty. Mitch Morrissey.

The press conference will be held at California State University, Los Angeles, on the second floor patio of the Golden Eagle building, 5151 State University Drive.

The press conference will be held during a break in the Sixth Annual DNA Awareness Forum for law enforcement officers, victim advocates, health care providers, attorneys and criminalists.

CONTACT: Jean Guccione, Shiara M. Dávila or Kerry Blosten, Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office, at (213) 974-7401.

jr

Please read our [Privacy Policy](#).

© 1994-2012 Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office. All Rights Reserved.



Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

[Home](#)

[Crimes of Violence](#)

[Working With Communities](#)

[Fraud & Corruption](#)

[Search](#)

[Meet the D.A.](#)

[Top Documents](#)

[Victim Services](#)

[Consumer Alert](#)

[Bureau of Investigation](#)

[Criminal Justice Institute](#)

[Newsroom](#)

[Job Listings](#)

[Office Overview](#)

[History of the Office](#)

[Office Locations](#)

[Office Directory](#)

[FAQs](#)

[Board Correspondence](#)

[L.A. County Home Page](#)

[Contact Us](#)

D.A. Thanks Governor for Signing DNA Testing Bill

September 11, 2007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contacts: [Joe Scott](#), Director of Communications

[Sandi Gibbons](#), Public Information Officer

[Jane Robison](#), News Secretary

(213) 974-3525

LOS ANGELES – District Attorney Steve Cooley thanked Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger today for signing a bill ensuring the integrity of DNA testing of cases involving sexually violent predators who are being held under civil commitment.

Senate Bill 542 sponsored by state Sen. Gloria Romero, D-Los Angeles, was signed by the governor this afternoon.

"I thank Gov. Schwarzenegger for his action today and I commend Sen. Romero for sponsoring this important legislation," Cooley said.

Cooley proposed the bill that closes a loophole in the current Sexually Violent Predator Law that placed restrictions on DNA testing to prison inmates, but did not cover sexually violent predators who are confined through civil commitments.

"This bill provides procedural protection for the People in a case in which the court has determined that a sexually violent predator has a right to DNA testing," the District Attorney said.

Cooley and the Los Angeles District Attorney's Office have been in the forefront of new developments in the use of DNA in criminal cases. Just yesterday at a DNA Awareness Education Forum in Los Angeles, Cooley and Attorney General Jerry Brown discussed the future of DNA and the need to expand the uses of the California DNA data bank.

sg

Please read our [Privacy Policy](#).

© 1994-2012 Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office. All Rights Reserved.



Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

Home

Crimes of Violence

Working With Communities

Fraud & Corruption

Search

Meet the D.A.

Top Documents

Victim Services

Consumer Alert

Bureau of Investigation

Criminal Justice Institute

Newsroom

Job Listings

Office Overview

History of the Office

Office Locations

Office Directory

FAQs

Board Correspondence

L.A. County Home Page

Contact Us

Teen Charged as Adult in Palmdale Schoolyard Attack

September 11, 2007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contacts: [Joe Scott](#), Director of Communications

[Sandi Gibbons](#), Public Information Officer

[Jane Robison](#), News Secretary

(213) 974-3525

LANCASTER – A 15-year-old boy was charged as an adult today in the attack on a 14-year-old girl who was found unconscious on an elementary schoolyard in Palmdale last week.

The defendant was scheduled to appear for arraignment this afternoon in Antelope Valley Superior Court in Lancaster. The District Attorney's office recommended he be held on \$2 million bail.

Case No. MA039772 charged Brandon Deon Audinett (dob 3-11-1992) with one count each of attempted murder, assault with a deadly weapon and forcible rape. The complaint alleged the defendant used a "length of metal zipper material" in the attack on Sept. 6.

The defendant faces a possible state prison sentence of life with the possibility of parole if convicted of the charges.

The victim was hospitalized. Authorities said she was beaten and sexually assaulted.

Deputy District Attorney Kelly Cromer of the Antelope Valley Office will prosecute the case. The Sheriff's Department investigated the attack and arrested the defendant on Sept. 7.

sg

Please read our [Privacy Policy](#).

© 1994-2012 Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office. All Rights Reserved.



Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

[Home](#)

[Crimes of Violence](#)

[Working With Communities](#)

[Fraud & Corruption](#)

[Search](#)

[Meet the D.A.](#)

[Top Documents](#)

[Victim Services](#)

[Consumer Alert](#)

[Bureau of Investigation](#)

[Criminal Justice Institute](#)

[Newsroom](#)

[Job Listings](#)

[Office Overview](#)

[History of the Office](#)

[Office Locations](#)

[Office Directory](#)

[FAQs](#)

[Board Correspondence](#)

[L.A. County Home Page](#)

[Contact Us](#)

Former Lawman Sentenced to 25 Years to Life In Prison for Murdering Estranged Wife

September 14, 2007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contacts: [Joe Scott](#), Director of Communications

[Sandi Gibbons](#), Public Information Officer

[Jane Robison](#), News Secretary

(213) 974-3525

SAN FERNANDO – John Racz, a retired Sheriff's deputy convicted of murdering his wife in 1991, was sentenced today to a 25-year-to-life prison term.

Deputy District Attorney Beth Silverman of the Major Crimes Division said that before the 61-year-old defendant was sentenced by San Fernando Superior Court Judge Ronald S. Coen, he denied killing his wife, whose body never has been found.

Silverman said Coen responded, "You are a murderer," and sentenced Racz to prison.

A jury convicted Racz of first-degree murder on Aug. 22 in a case that District Attorney Steve Cooley said "shows the power of strong circumstantial evidence."

Silverman and co-prosecutor John Lewin told news reporters after Racz's sentencing that they appreciated that Cooley "had the courage to seek justice in this case." The prosecutors noted that although it was a "no body" case, the original Sheriff's investigators, now both retired, had gathered very strong circumstantial evidence after Mrs. Racz vanished in 1991.

Sheriff's Homicide investigators decided to take a new look at the evidence last year. It was brought to the District Attorney's Major Crimes Division and presented to a grand jury. Racz was indicted on Oct. 19, 2006.

Racz, who taught school after he retired from the Sheriff's Department, was arrested a short time after the indictment when he stepped off a plane from Thailand. Bail was set at \$1 million, which Racz posted. He remained free on bail during the trial, but was remanded into custody when he was convicted.

Ann Racz, 42, vanished from her Newhall condominium on April 22, 1991.

Mrs. Racz had moved out of the Valencia home she shared with the defendant and their three children four days before. She never has been seen again.

sg

Please read our [Privacy Policy](#).

© 1994-2012 Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office. All Rights Reserved.



Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

[Home](#)

[Crimes of Violence](#)

[Working With Communities](#)

[Fraud & Corruption](#)

[Search](#)

[Meet the D.A.](#)

[Top Documents](#)

[Victim Services](#)

[Consumer Alert](#)

[Bureau of Investigation](#)

[Criminal Justice Institute](#)

[Newsroom](#)

[Job Listings](#)

[Office Overview](#)

[History of the Office](#)

[Office Locations](#)

[Office Directory](#)

[FAQs](#)

[Board Correspondence](#)

[L.A. County Home Page](#)

[Contact Us](#)

Two Plead In Hazardous Waste Case

September 14, 2007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contacts: [Joe Scott](#), Director of Communications

[Sandi Gibbons](#), Public Information Officer

[Jane Robison](#), News Secretary

(213) 974-3525

LOS ANGELES -- Two men accused in an Antelope Valley hazardous waste dumping case pleaded to various criminal charges today in Los Angeles Superior Court.

Deputy District Attorney Daniel Wright of the Environmental Law Section of the Consumer Protection Division said Sherwin Pascal Smith, 43, owner of a waste disposal business in Lancaster, pleaded guilty to 11 felony counts including illegal disposal or storage of hazardous waste, forgery and grand theft. His co-defendant and employee, 34-year-old Marvin Timothy Dunbar, pleaded no contest to one count of grand theft.

Smith is scheduled to be sentenced on Jan. 15 by Superior Court Judge Michael Johnson. Wright said Smith is to be sentenced to a suspended six-year state prison term and will be placed on five years of supervised probation. He will have to serve a year in county jail and pay an \$81,000 fine under terms of a plea agreement, the prosecutor said.

After Dunbar pleaded, the judge reduced the felony count to a misdemeanor, placed the defendant on three years probation and fined him \$2,025, Wright said. Dunbar's plead was "open," meaning it was not negotiated beforehand.

Smith, of Tehachapi, owned Smith and Thompson Pumping Co. and S&S Environmental and Processing, both in Lancaster. Dunbar, of Mojave, was a driver for Smith.

The prosecutor said the defendants picked up hazardous and non-hazardous waste from legitimate companies. The waste was illegally dumped in the Antelope Valley. The defendants billed for removal and dumping at authorized disposal companies, the prosecutor said.

He said forged documents showing the "legal" disposal of the waste were

produced for payment ? usually about 14 cents a gallon. Wright said authorities believe that thousands of gallons of waste were dumped illegally between November 2003 and January 2005.

Smith and Dunbar were charged in September 2005.

sg

Please read our [Privacy Policy](#).

© 1994-2012 Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office. All Rights Reserved.



Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

[Home](#)

[Crimes of Violence](#)

[Working With Communities](#)

[Fraud & Corruption](#)

[Search](#)

[Meet the D.A.](#)

[Top Documents](#)

[Victim Services](#)

[Consumer Alert](#)

[Bureau of Investigation](#)

[Criminal Justice Institute](#)

[Newsroom](#)

[Job Listings](#)

[Office Overview](#)

[History of the Office](#)

[Office Locations](#)

[Office Directory](#)

[FAQs](#)

[Board Correspondence](#)

[L.A. County Home Page](#)

[Contact Us](#)

Reputed Gang Member Charged with Capital Murder in Fatal Shooting of Baby

September 18, 2007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contacts: [Joe Scott](#), Director of Communications

[Sandi Gibbons](#), Public Information Officer

[Jane Robison](#), News Secretary

(213) 974-3525

LOS ANGELES – A 19-year-old reputed gang member was charged today with capital murder in Saturday's fatal shooting of a 23-day-old baby in MacArthur Park, the District Attorney's office announced.

Luis Silva, (dob 7-16-88), also is charged with three counts of attempted murder and one count of attempted extortion in case No. BA329116, said Deputy District Attorney Peter Cagney, assistant head deputy of the Hardcore Gang Division.

Silva, a reputed 18th Street gang member, is charged with the fatal shooting of Luis Angel Garcia, the infant who was hit by a stray bullet about 9:30 p.m. Saturday, as his mother pushed his stroller. The complaint alleges the special circumstance that Silva committed the murder to further a criminal street gang, making him eligible for the death penalty. Prosecutors will decide later whether to seek the death penalty.

Prosecutors said gang members allegedly tried to extort money from outdoor vendors on Sept. 1 and one vendor refused to pay. Gang members allegedly returned to MacArthur Park Saturday and opened fire, striking one vendor at least twice. Silva also is being charged with three counts of attempted murder of the vendor, the baby's mother and her fiancé, who were in the area near 6th Street and Burlington Avenue when gunmen opened fire.

Police are still looking for additional suspects.

Silva is scheduled to be arraigned this afternoon at the Foltz Criminal Justice Center, Division 30. He is being held without bail.

jr

Please read our [Privacy Policy](#).

© 1994-2012 Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office. All Rights Reserved.



Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

[Home](#)

[Crimes of Violence](#)

[Working With Communities](#)

[Fraud & Corruption](#)

[Search](#)

[Meet the D.A.](#)

[Top Documents](#)

[Victim Services](#)

[Consumer Alert](#)

[Bureau of Investigation](#)

[Criminal Justice Institute](#)

[Newsroom](#)

[Job Listings](#)

[Office Overview](#)

[History of the Office](#)

[Office Locations](#)

[Office Directory](#)

[FAQs](#)

[Board Correspondence](#)

[L.A. County Home Page](#)

[Contact Us](#)

Two Charged in Shooting of 9-Year-Old Girl

September 19, 2007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contacts: [Joe Scott](#), Director of Communications

[Sandi Gibbons](#), Public Information Officer

[Jane Robison](#), News Secretary

(213) 974-3525

LOS ANGELES – A 14-year-old suspected gang member was charged today with two counts of attempted murder and possession of a firearm by a minor in connection with a Sept. 11 shooting, the District Attorney's office announced.

Nicholas Mack, (dob 7-12-93), is the second defendant charged in case BA329066. Co-defendant Raymundo Munoz Villarreal, 24 (dob 2-24-83), pleaded not guilty Tuesday in the same case filed by the Hardcore Gang Division.

LAPD officers said the shooting occurred shortly before 5 p.m. when a suspect approached the victim's house in the 1400 block of Cochran Avenue and opened fire at two male Hispanics standing in the doorway. The bullet went through a wall and struck a 9-year-old girl who was in her bedroom doing homework. Police said the shooting appeared to be gang related and retaliation for a shooting that occurred on June 27.

Mack and Villarreal are charged with two counts each of attempted murder, one count each of assault with a firearm, one count each of shooting at an inhabited dwelling. Mack also is charged with the special allegations of personal use of a firearm and causing great bodily injury.

Mack is being held on \$2 million bail. Villarreal is being held on \$3.6 million bail. If convicted, each faces up to life in prison.

jr

Please read our [Privacy Policy](#).



Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

[Home](#)[Crimes of Violence](#)[Working With Communities](#)[Fraud & Corruption](#)[Search](#)[Meet the D.A.](#)[Top Documents](#)[Victim Services](#)[Consumer Alert](#)[Bureau of Investigation](#)[Criminal Justice Institute](#)[Newsroom](#)[Job Listings](#)[Office Overview](#)[History of the Office](#)[Office Locations](#)[Office Directory](#)[FAQs](#)[Board Correspondence](#)[L.A. County Home Page](#)[Contact Us](#)

Man Scheduled to Be Arraigned On Rape, Other Charges In Attacks In Santa Clarita

September 20, 2007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contacts: [Joe Scott](#), Director of Communications

[Sandi Gibbons](#), Public Information Officer

[Jane Robison](#), News Secretary

(213) 974-3525

SAN FERNANDO – A 29-year-old man suspected of breaking into the homes of three women in Santa Clarita earlier this year and allegedly raping two at knifepoint is scheduled to be arraigned Friday on multiple counts of sexual assault, the District Attorney's office announced today.

Adrian Guadalupe Arriano, (dob 11-5-77), is charged in case No. PA060038 with 26 counts, including multiple counts of forcible sexual assault with the special allegation that he was armed with a knife, said Deputy District Attorney Angela Jordan. He's being held on \$11 million bail.

He is scheduled to be arraigned after 8:30 a.m. Friday at San Fernando Superior Court, Dept. S.

Arriano is suspected of breaking into the homes of three women in the Santa Clarita area between January and June. Two of the victims were violently sexually assaulted. The third victim was able to fight him off. He was arrested Sept. 10 by deputies with the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Office, Santa Clarita Station, and charged with residential burglary in a separate case in Santa Clarita, PA056722.

If convicted in the sexual assault case filed Wednesday, he faces multiple life terms in prison.

jr

Please read our [Privacy Policy](#).

© 1994-2012 Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office. All Rights Reserved.



Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

[Home](#)

[Crimes of Violence](#)

[Working With Communities](#)

[Fraud & Corruption](#)

[Search](#)

[Meet the D.A.](#)

[Top Documents](#)

[Victim Services](#)

[Consumer Alert](#)

[Bureau of Investigation](#)

[Criminal Justice Institute](#)

[Newsroom](#)

[Job Listings](#)

[Office Overview](#)

[History of the Office](#)

[Office Locations](#)

[Office Directory](#)

[FAQs](#)

[Board Correspondence](#)

[L.A. County Home Page](#)

[Contact Us](#)

Founder of Nonprofit Center Charged With Conspiracy, Embezzlement, Tax Fraud

September 21, 2007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contacts: [Joe Scott](#), Director of Communications

[Sandi Gibbons](#), Public Information Officer

[Jane Robison](#), News Secretary

(213) 974-3525

LOS ANGELES – The 53-year-old founder of a nonprofit resettlement agency for African refugees in Los Angeles has been arrested and charged with embezzling more than \$1 million from the agency, the District Attorney's office announced today. Three co-defendants also have been arrested and charged with various counts in the conspiracy.

Nigisti Tesfai, also known as Nikki, is charged in a 25-count complaint with using her position as the executive director of the African Community Resource Center to embezzle the agency's assets and misappropriate public money received by ACRC, said Deputy District Attorney Leonard Torrealba with the Public Integrity Division. Tesfai allegedly promised to help resettle refugees, provide group homes for children and open homeless shelters.

Following a four-year investigation by PID and the D.A.'s Bureau of Investigation, the Beverly Hills resident was arrested Thursday. She is being held on \$1.5 million bail.

She is charged in case No. BA328605 with multiple counts of conspiracy, embezzlement, forgery, filing false tax returns, fraud and grand theft.

The agency purchased several properties to use as group homes for children. The complaint alleges the properties were never operated as group homes. In one case, ownership of a property in Long Beach purchased with ACRC money allegedly was transferred to Kurt Rivas, Tesfai's boyfriend. The complaint also alleges her and her brother, Isaac Tesfaye, forged documents to steal an ACRC South Gate apartment building and place it in her name.

In another instance, ACRC purchased a house in Los Angeles to turn into a homeless shelter. The complaint alleges Tesfai and a third co-defendant, Marine Panossian, filed a false reimbursement claim to the state Department of House and Community Development for construction work that was never

completed on the house. The building, which suffered two separate fires, was never opened as a homeless shelter.

The complaint also alleges Tesfai's personal housekeeper was paid \$18,000 over three years by ACRC.

Tesfai, Rivas and Panossian are scheduled to be arraigned Monday at the Foltz Criminal Justice Center, Division 30. Isaac Tesfaye, who was arrested Thursday in Virginia, is scheduled to be arraigned later.

If convicted, Nikki Tesfai is facing up to 15 years in state prison.

jr

Please read our [Privacy Policy](#).

© 1994-2012 Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office. All Rights Reserved.



[Home](#)

[Crimes of Violence](#)

[Working With Communities](#)

[Fraud & Corruption](#)

[Search](#)

[Meet the D.A.](#)

[Top Documents](#)

[Victim Services](#)

[Consumer Alert](#)

[Bureau of Investigation](#)

[Criminal Justice Institute](#)

[Newsroom](#)

[Job Listings](#)

[Office Overview](#)

[History of the Office](#)

[Office Locations](#)

[Office Directory](#)

[FAQs](#)

[Board Correspondence](#)

[L.A. County Home Page](#)

[Contact Us](#)

Judge Issues Preliminary Injunction Against Hawaiian Gardens Gang Members

September 21, 2007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contacts: [Joe Scott](#), Director of Communications

[Sandi Gibbons](#), Public Information Officer

[Jane Robison](#), News Secretary

(213) 974-3525

LOS ANGELES – A preliminary injunction prohibiting certain conduct by named members of the Varrio Hawaiian Gardens criminal street gang was issued today by a Los Angeles Superior Court judge in an action sought by District Attorney Steve Cooley and other law enforcement officials to break the cycle of violence and intimidation in southeast Los Angeles.

Deputy District Attorney Deanne Castorena of the Hardcore Gang Division said the preliminary injunction was signed this afternoon by Judge Robert O'Brien after a morning hearing in which the court was asked to find "that the conduct of Varrio Hawaiian Gardens criminal street gang, acting through its members constitutes a public nuisance..."

Castorena filed a civil lawsuit against the gang and its members last month to stop activity that causes a public nuisance in an area that includes Hawaiian Gardens and portions of Lakewood, Long Beach and Cypress. The activity includes possession of weapons, drugs and alcohol; congregating in public places; and trespassing.

"This injunction is designed to reduce violence in the area and restore security to those who live, work and visit southeast Los Angeles," Cooley said when the case was filed last month.

In the order granting the preliminary injunction, it was noted that, "The behavior of the members of Defendant Varrio Hawaiian Gardens Gang constitutes a nuisance in that it is indecent and offensive to the sense, interferes with the comfortable enjoyment of life and property, and is injurious to the health of the people in the Safety Zone (the term used in the lawsuit for the area targeted by the civil action)."

A member of the gang was sentenced to death in May for murdering Sheriff's Deputy Jerry Ortiz in ambush in Hawaiian Gardens in 2005. The District

Attorney's Crimes Against Police Officers Section successfully prosecuted 20-year-old Jose Luis Orozco before a jury in Norwalk Superior Court. The courthouse where he was tried is only a stone's throw from an area that was successfully targeted by a District Attorney's gang injunction handled by Castorena nearly two decades ago.

Other law enforcement agencies involved in the civil abatement effort against Varrio Hawaiian Gardens include the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department and the Long Beach and Cypress police departments.

A date for trial on a permanent injunction has not yet been scheduled.

sg

Please read our [Privacy Policy](#).

© 1994-2012 Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office. All Rights Reserved.



Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

[Home](#)

[Crimes of Violence](#)

[Working With Communities](#)

[Fraud & Corruption](#)

[Search](#)

[Meet the D.A.](#)

[Top Documents](#)

[Victim Services](#)

[Consumer Alert](#)

[Bureau of Investigation](#)

[Criminal Justice Institute](#)

[Newsroom](#)

[Job Listings](#)

[Office Overview](#)

[History of the Office](#)

[Office Locations](#)

[Office Directory](#)

[FAQs](#)

[Board Correspondence](#)

[L.A. County Home Page](#)

[Contact Us](#)

Man Charged With Robbing Reseda Couple

September 25, 2007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contacts: [Joe Scott](#), Director of Communications

[Sandi Gibbons](#), Public Information Officer

[Jane Robison](#), News Secretary

(213) 974-3525

VAN NUYS – A convicted felon suspected of impersonating a police officer to rob an elderly couple in their Reseda townhouse last week was charged today with robbery, assault with a deadly weapon and burglary, the District Attorney's office said.

Dennis James Bryley, 47, (dob 12-28-59), is scheduled to be arraigned this afternoon in Van Nuys Superior Court, Div. 100. He is charged in case No. LA056903 and is being held on \$1.1 million.

Bryley allegedly knocked on a Reseda couple home about 8 p.m. on Sept. 20 in the 7500 block of Corbin Avenue and identified himself as "police." He allegedly said he had follow-up questions about an auto accident the couple had been involved in earlier in the day. When one victim grew suspicious, Bryley allegedly pulled out a knife and robbed the couple of \$100 before fleeing on foot.

He was arrested by LAPD the next day at his Woodland Hills home.

jr

Please read our [Privacy Policy](#).

© 1994-2012 Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office. All Rights Reserved.



Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

Home

Crimes of Violence

Working With Communities

Fraud & Corruption

Search

Meet the D.A.

Top Documents

Victim Services

Consumer Alert

Bureau of Investigation

Criminal Justice Institute

Newsroom

Job Listings

Office Overview

History of the Office

Office Locations

Office Directory

FAQs

Board Correspondence

L.A. County Home Page

Contact Us

Man Charged With Killing Girlfriend

September 26, 2007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contacts: [Joe Scott](#), Director of Communications

[Sandi Gibbons](#), Public Information Officer

[Jane Robison](#), News Secretary

(213) 974-3525

COMPTON -- A 33-year-old Los Angeles man suspected of fatally shooting his pregnant girlfriend in front of her two children as they were driving in Watts on Sunday was charged today with two counts of murder, the District Attorney's office announced.

Stephen Mark Picart, (dob 2-22-74), is scheduled to be arraigned after 1:30 p. m. at Compton Superior Court, Div. 12, said Deputy District Attorney Martha A. Carrillo. He is charged in case TA093015. He is being held on \$2 million bail.

Picart allegedly fatally Sharon Carter during an argument as Carter was driving her SUV around 5 p.m. in the 9600 block of Compton Avenue. The woman's two sons, ages 14 and 4, were in the car when their mother was shot, police said. The children were not injured.

Picart later surrendered to police.

jr

Please read our [Privacy Policy](#).

© 1994-2012 Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office. All Rights Reserved.



Home

Crimes of Violence

Working With Communities

Fraud & Corruption

Search

Meet the D.A.

Top Documents

Victim Services

Consumer Alert

Bureau of Investigation

Criminal Justice Institute

Newsroom

Job Listings

Office Overview

History of the Office

Office Locations

Office Directory

FAQs

Board Correspondence

L.A. County Home Page

Contact Us

Statement by District Attorney Steve Cooley on the Phillip Spector Case

September 26, 2007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contacts: [Joe Scott](#), Director of Communications

[Sandi Gibbons](#), Public Information Officer

[Jane Robison](#), News Secretary

(213) 974-3525

"We are disappointed the jury was unable to reach a verdict. We will seek the court's permission to re-try the case and begin immediately to prepare for a re-trial."

js

Please read our [Privacy Policy](#).

© 1994-2012 Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office. All Rights Reserved.



Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

[Home](#)

[Crimes of Violence](#)

[Working With Communities](#)

[Fraud & Corruption](#)

[Search](#)

[Meet the D.A.](#)

[Top Documents](#)

[Victim Services](#)

[Consumer Alert](#)

[Bureau of Investigation](#)

[Criminal Justice Institute](#)

[Newsroom](#)

[Job Listings](#)

[Office Overview](#)

[History of the Office](#)

[Office Locations](#)

[Office Directory](#)

[FAQs](#)

[Board Correspondence](#)

[L.A. County Home Page](#)

[Contact Us](#)

Son Charged With Fatally Stabbing His Mother

September 28, 2007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contacts: [Joe Scott](#), Director of Communications

[Sandi Gibbons](#), Public Information Officer

[Jane Robison](#), News Secretary

(213) 974-3525

VAN NUYS – A 25-year-old man suspected of fatally stabbing his mother at their Calabasas home on Tuesday was charged today with one count of murder, the District Attorney's office announced.

Jesse Bernard Winnick, (dob 1-21-82), is scheduled to be arraigned today at Van Nuys Superior Court, Div. 100. He is charged in case No. LA056039 with one count of murder with the special allegation that he used a knife. He is being held on \$1 million bail.

Winnick is suspected of fatally stabbing his mother, Hadas Winnick, a math teacher at Canoga Park High School, Tuesday night at her home in the 3800 block of Declaration Avenue. His sister called police after discovering her mother's body. Winnick was arrested by sheriff's deputies a short time later.

jr

Please read our [Privacy Policy](#).

© 1994-2012 Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office. All Rights Reserved.



Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

Home

Crimes of Violence

Working With Communities

Fraud & Corruption

Search

Meet the D.A.

Top Documents

Victim Services

Consumer Alert

Bureau of Investigation

Criminal Justice Institute

Newsroom

Job Listings

Office Overview

History of the Office

Office Locations

Office Directory

FAQs

Board Correspondence

L.A. County Home Page

Contact Us

Former LAPD Officer Pleads Guilty In Unlawful Use of Force Case

September 28, 2007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contacts: [Joe Scott](#), Director of Communications

[Sandi Gibbons](#), Public Information Officer

[Jane Robison](#), News Secretary

(213) 974-3525

LOS ANGELES – A former Los Angeles police officer pleaded guilty today to two misdemeanor counts of fighting in connection with the choking and punching of a handcuffed 16-year-old prisoner late last year.

Deputy District Attorney Sean Hassett of the Justice System Integrity Division said that as part of the disposition of the case, 42-year-old Sean Joseph Meade resigned from the Los Angeles Police Department. He did so before appearing in court this morning, Hassett said.

The prosecutor added that Meade additionally gave up any claims against the LAPD except for back pay, sick time and vacation time.

Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Rand S. Rubin immediately sentenced Meade to perform 200 hours of community service as part of three years probation. Hassett said Meade earlier completed an anger management course.

Meade was charged on March 5 with unlawful use of force and filing a false police report in connection with the Dec. 5, 2006, incident at Central Station.

Authorities said the juvenile was being held at the station following his arrest. The incident was captured on videotape by the LAPD.

sg

Please read our [Privacy Policy](#).

© 1994-2012 Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office. All Rights Reserved.



Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

[Home](#)[Crimes of Violence](#)[Working With Communities](#)[Fraud & Corruption](#)[Search](#)[Meet the D.A.](#)[Top Documents](#)[Victim Services](#)[Consumer Alert](#)[Bureau of Investigation](#)[Criminal Justice Institute](#)[Newsroom](#)[Job Listings](#)[Office Overview](#)[History of the Office](#)[Office Locations](#)[Office Directory](#)[FAQs](#)[Board Correspondence](#)[L.A. County Home Page](#)[Contact Us](#)

Former State Fire Captain Convicted of 23-year-old Torrance KFC Murder

September 28, 2007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contacts: [Joe Scott](#), Director of Communications

[Sandi Gibbons](#), Public Information Officer

[Jane Robison](#), News Secretary

(213) 974-3525

TORRANCE – A former state fire captain was convicted today of fatally stabbing a Torrance Kentucky Fried Chicken restaurant assistant manager during an attempted robbery 23 years ago.

A Torrance Superior Court jury, which deliberated just over one day, convicted William Charles Marshall, 46, of one count of first-degree murder and found true the special circumstance of murder during an attempted robbery. The jury also found true the allegation that Marshall used a knife to commit the crime.

The District Attorney's office opted against seeking the death penalty against Marshall. He is expected to be sentenced to life without the possibility of parole when he returns to the court of trial Judge Mark Arnold on Oct. 26.

Deputy District Attorney John Lewin of the Major Crimes Division, who prosecuted the case, said Marshall was convicted of murdering 21-year-old Robin Lucille Hoynes sometime between Oct. 30 and Oct. 31, 1984. The fatal stabbing occurred during an attempted robbery at the KFC restaurant near the Hollywood Rivera in Torrance.

Marshall had been an assistant manager at the restaurant and had worked with the victim. He was terminated by KFC only days before the killing. He was questioned by police at the time, but was not held.

The Torrance Police Department's cold case unit took a new look at the two-decades-old killing and presented a case to the District Attorney's office. Marshall was indicted by the Los Angeles County Grand Jury on Sept. 27, 2006, and arrested in Riverside County the next day. He has remained in custody without bond.

At the time of his arrest, Marshall, of Mountain Center, was working for the state Department of Forestry and Fire Service.

sg

Please read our [Privacy Policy](#).

© 1994-2012 Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office. All Rights Reserved.



Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

[Home](#)

[Crimes of Violence](#)

[Working With Communities](#)

[Fraud & Corruption](#)

[Search](#)

[Meet the D.A.](#)

[Top Documents](#)

[Victim Services](#)

[Consumer Alert](#)

[Bureau of Investigation](#)

[Criminal Justice Institute](#)

[Newsroom](#)

[Job Listings](#)

[Office Overview](#)

[History of the Office](#)

[Office Locations](#)

[Office Directory](#)

[FAQs](#)

[Board Correspondence](#)

[L.A. County Home Page](#)

[Contact Us](#)

Man Charged with Stabbing Police Dog

August 1, 2007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contacts: [Joe Scott](#), Director of Communications

[Sandi Gibbons](#), Public Information Officer

[Jane Robison](#), News Secretary

(213) 974-3525

TORRANCE – A Lawndale man has pleaded not guilty to making criminal threats and stabbing a police dog Monday night in Redondo Beach, the District Attorney's office announced.

Jimmie Divo Lunceford, 39 (dob 11-24-67), pleaded not guilty today to three counts of making criminal threats, one count of attempted first-degree residential burglary and one count of assault on a police animal with the special allegation of using a knife. He is being held on \$1 million bail.

Lunceford allegedly threatened his two stepdaughters and attempted to break into a Lawndale house after he and his wife separated. When Redondo Beach police arrived at the scene, Lunceford allegedly stabbed Valor, the Redondo Beach Police Department K-9, twice in the neck. Valor is recovering.

If convicted, Lunceford is facing up to six years, eight months in state prison. He is charged in case No. YA068935. His next court date is Aug. 15 in Torrance Superior Court, Dept. 4, for preliminary hearing setting.

jr

Please read our [Privacy Policy](#).

© 1994-2012 Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office. All Rights Reserved.



Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

Home

Crimes of Violence

Working With Communities

Fraud & Corruption

Search

Meet the D.A.

Top Documents

Victim Services

Consumer Alert

Bureau of Investigation

Criminal Justice Institute

Newsroom

Job Listings

Office Overview

History of the Office

Office Locations

Office Directory

FAQs

Board Correspondence

L.A. County Home Page

Contact Us

Man Charged with Animal Cruelty after Dog Dies in Hot Car

August 2, 2007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contacts: [Joe Scott](#), Director of Communications

[Sandi Gibbons](#), Public Information Officer

[Jane Robison](#), News Secretary

(213) 974-3525

VAN NUYS – A 55-year-old Simi Valley man has been charged with felony animal cruelty after his two-year-old Labrador died after being left in his car for four hours, the District Attorney's office announced today.

Bennett Ira Goldberg, (dob 4-30-52), is scheduled to be arraigned today in Van Nuys Superior Court, Dept. 100. He is charged in case No. LA056426. He is being held on \$20,000 bail.

On Tuesday, a neighbor heard a dog barking in distress and called police about 1 p.m. When LAPD officers responded in the 6800 block of Owensmouth Avenue in Canoga Park, they found the yellow Lab dead inside the BMW SUV. The dog was allegedly left in the car for four hours.

If convicted, Goldberg is facing up to three years in state prison.

jr

Please read our [Privacy Policy](#).

© 1994-2012 Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office. All Rights Reserved.



[Home](#)

[Crimes of Violence](#)

[Working With Communities](#)

[Fraud & Corruption](#)

[Search](#)

[Meet the D.A.](#)

[Top Documents](#)

[Victim Services](#)

[Consumer Alert](#)

[Bureau of Investigation](#)

[Criminal Justice Institute](#)

[Newsroom](#)

[Job Listings](#)

[Office Overview](#)

[History of the Office](#)

[Office Locations](#)

[Office Directory](#)

[FAQs](#)

[Board Correspondence](#)

[L.A. County Home Page](#)

[Contact Us](#)

Former Bell Gardens Official Pleads to Conflict of Interest

August 3, 2007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contacts: [Joe Scott](#), Director of Communications

[Sandi Gibbons](#), Public Information Officer

[Jane Robison](#), News Secretary

(213) 974-3525

LOS ANGELES – Former Bell Gardens City Manager Maria Chacon pleaded no contest today to a felony charge of conflict of interest in a case that the Public Integrity Division had to take to the California Supreme Court to be able to successfully conclude one of its first public corruption prosecutions under District Attorney Steve Cooley.

Cooley formed the Public Integrity Division shortly after being sworn in as District Attorney in December 2000. Chacon was one of the first public officials prosecuted. Her case was thrown out by the Superior Court in 2003, leading to a lengthy appellate journey that ended in April of this year when the case was reinstated by the California Supreme Court.

The case was dismissed when a Superior Court judge ruled that Chacon's defense could claim she was advised by the Bell Gardens city attorney before acting and could not be held responsible for her actions.

"Simply stated, the judge's ruling would mean that any corrupt public official could hire a city attorney to give bad – and perhaps illegal – advice that the official could then hide behind to avoid prosecution," Cooley said in announcing that the decision would be appealed. "If the judge's ruling were allowed to stand, it would be a setback for any California authority pursuing a public corruption prosecution."

Deputy District Attorney Juliet Schmidt said Chacon, 59, was allowed to plead no contest over the objection of the prosecution, which asked for an open plea of guilty. Superior Court Judge Anne H. Egerton, again over the prosecution objection, placed the defendant on one year of probation and ordered her to pay a fine of \$1,000 or do 150 hours of community service.

Schmidt said the prosecution will ask for full restitution – nearly \$76,000 – at

a restitution hearing in Judge Egerton's court on Oct. 26. The restitution would be for the money the city paid Chacon the time she served as city manager of Bell Gardens. She was appointed to the post in December 2000.

Chacon was accused in a June 2001 complaint of conflict of interest for engineering her appointment to city manager while still an elected Bell Gardens City Council member.

sg

Please read our [Privacy Policy](#).

© 1994-2012 Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office. All Rights Reserved.



[Home](#)

[Crimes of Violence](#)

[Working With Communities](#)

[Fraud & Corruption](#)

[Search](#)

[Meet the D.A.](#)

[Top Documents](#)

[Victim Services](#)

[Consumer Alert](#)

[Bureau of Investigation](#)

[Criminal Justice Institute](#)

[Newsroom](#)

[Job Listings](#)

[Office Overview](#)

[History of the Office](#)

[Office Locations](#)

[Office Directory](#)

[FAQs](#)

[Board Correspondence](#)

[L.A. County Home Page](#)

[Contact Us](#)

Attn: News & Assignment Editors New Animal Cruelty Program Announced

August 6, 2007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contacts: [Joe Scott](#), Director of Communications

[Sandi Gibbons](#), Public Information Officer

[Jane Robison](#), News Secretary

(213) 974-3525

Dist. Atty. Steve Cooley will announce a new program to combat animal cruelty at an 11 a.m. news conference on Tuesday, Aug. 7. The news conference will be held at the Foltz Criminal Justice Center, 210 W. Temple St., at the Younger Conference Room on the 18th Floor.

CONTACT: Jane Robison, Press Secretary, 213-974-3528.

Please read our [Privacy Policy](#).

© 1994-2012 Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office. All Rights Reserved.



Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

[Home](#)

[Crimes of Violence](#)

[Working With Communities](#)

[Fraud & Corruption](#)

[Search](#)

[Meet the D.A.](#)

[Top Documents](#)

[Victim Services](#)

[Consumer Alert](#)

[Bureau of Investigation](#)

[Criminal Justice Institute](#)

[Newsroom](#)

[Job Listings](#)

[Office Overview](#)

[History of the Office](#)

[Office Locations](#)

[Office Directory](#)

[FAQs](#)

[Board Correspondence](#)

[L.A. County Home Page](#)

[Contact Us](#)

District Attorney Announces Creation of Animal Cruelty Case Coordinator

August 7, 2007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contacts: [Joe Scott](#), Director of Communications

[Sandi Gibbons](#), Public Information Officer

[Jane Robison](#), News Secretary

(213) 974-3525

LOS ANGELES – District Attorney Steve Cooley announced today a new program to better train prosecutors and law enforcement officers throughout Los Angeles County on investigating and prosecuting animal abuse cases.

Cooley said he has appointed Deputy District Attorney Deborah Knaan, who has extensive experience in animal-related issues, to serve as the new Animal Cruelty Case Coordinator. Among her duties will be to create guidelines on prosecuting animal cruelty cases, as well as writing and distributing pamphlets to raise public awareness on animal abuse issues.

"The inhumane treatment of animals is cause for concern wherever and whenever it happens," Cooley said at a news conference. "Because of the serious nature of this type of crime, my office is dedicating greater resources to training all law enforcement agencies, not only deputy district attorneys, on how to prosecute these case.

"My goal with the creation of this program is to insure uniformity throughout the county in prosecuting animal cruelty cases and to let the public know we will not tolerate abuse of any animal."

Cooley added that the position of Animal Cruelty Case Coordinator has been in the planning stages for some time. "With Deborah's recent return from a leave of absence, we now have the right person for this important job," he said.

Knaan returned in June from a six-month leave of absence to serve as the Assistant General Manager of Operations for the Los Angeles City Department of Animal Services. As Assistant General Manager, she was responsible for the day-to-day operations of the six city animal shelters. She also oversaw the department's field officers, who investigated animal abuse

cases. She also served for two years on the city's Board of Animal Services Commission, from 2004 to 2006.

As part of the new program, Cooley asked all branch offices to designate a specific deputy district attorney to prosecute animal cruelty cases. Knaan is creating a manual for prosecutors and law enforcement on prosecuting animal cruelty cases, and she will help train those deputies specifically designated to prosecute these cases.

Currently, there are 138 open and/or inactive animal cruelty cases pending. A majority of the cases filed since 2000 remain open because the defendants have failed to appear in court and arrest warrants have been issued. Since January, 40 animal cruelty cases have been filed.

The most recent case involves a 41-year-old Los Angeles pharmacist who is scheduled to be arraigned today on two counts of cruelty to animals. Keith Chung, (dob 4-28-66), is charged with fatally beating 2 schnauzers, one of which was found in his freezer. Chung was arrested July 13 by LAPD officers responding to a report from neighbors of a dog barking as if in distress.

Inside the defendant's condominium in the 4000 block of Glenco Avenue, officers found a small black schnauzer lying face down. The dog was breathing but unresponsive. Officers allegedly found blood on the walls. The body of a second schnauzer allegedly was found in the defendant's freezer. A necropsy revealed the second animal suffered severe injuries that appeared to be caused by blunt force trauma.

jr

Please read our [Privacy Policy](#).

© 1994-2012 Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office. All Rights Reserved.



Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

[Home](#)

[Crimes of Violence](#)

[Working With Communities](#)

[Fraud & Corruption](#)

[Search](#)

[Meet the D.A.](#)

[Top Documents](#)

[Victim Services](#)

[Consumer Alert](#)

[Bureau of Investigation](#)

[Criminal Justice Institute](#)

[Newsroom](#)

[Job Listings](#)

[Office Overview](#)

[History of the Office](#)

[Office Locations](#)

[Office Directory](#)

[FAQs](#)

[Board Correspondence](#)

[L.A. County Home Page](#)

[Contact Us](#)

Woman Charged with Murdering Husband, Sons

August 10, 2007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contacts: [Joe Scott](#), Director of Communications

[Sandi Gibbons](#), Public Information Officer

[Jane Robison](#), News Secretary

(213) 974-3525

WEST COVINA – A 28-year-old woman was charged today with capital murder for the slayings of her husband and the couple's young sons at the family's Rowland Heights residence this week.

Manling Tsang Williams (dob 10-1-1979), is scheduled to appear for arraignment after 1:30 p.m. today in Department 8 of Citrus Superior Court in West Covina. She is being held without bail.

Williams is charged with three counts of murder in the deaths of her 27-year-old husband, Neal, and their sons, Ian, 3, and Devon, 7. The complaint (case No. KA 080108) alleged the husband was stabbed to death with a sword and the boys were smothered with a pillow.

The complaint also alleged the special circumstances of lying in wait in boys' killings and multiple murder involving all three victims. The District Attorney's Office will not make a decision on whether to seek the death penalty against the defendants until the case moves closer to trial.

Authorities said the killings occurred on Wednesday in the family home in the 18000 block of Camino Bello. The defendant was arrested Wednesday night.

The killings were investigated by detectives from the Sheriff's Homicide Division.

Deputy District Attorney Pak Kouch was assigned to prosecute the case, which was filed by Deputy District Attorney Gail Ehrlich.

sg

Please read our [Privacy Policy](#).

© 1994-2012 Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office. All Rights Reserved.



Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

[Home](#)

[Crimes of Violence](#)

[Working With Communities](#)

[Fraud & Corruption](#)

[Search](#)

[Meet the D.A.](#)

[Top Documents](#)

[Victim Services](#)

[Consumer Alert](#)

[Bureau of Investigation](#)

[Criminal Justice Institute](#)

[Newsroom](#)

[Job Listings](#)

[Office Overview](#)

[History of the Office](#)

[Office Locations](#)

[Office Directory](#)

[FAQs](#)

[Board Correspondence](#)

[L.A. County Home Page](#)

[Contact Us](#)

Hawaiian Garden Gang Members Put On Notice

August 10, 2007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contacts: [Joe Scott](#), Director of Communications

[Sandi Gibbons](#), Public Information Officer

[Jane Robison](#), News Secretary

(213) 974-3525

HAWAIIAN GARDENS – Members of a Hawaiian Gardens criminal street gang were put on notice today that the District Attorney's Office, the Sheriff's Department and the Cypress and Long Beach police departments have targeted the gang for civil action designed to break its cycle of violence and intimidation in southeast Los Angeles.

A lawsuit against the Varrio Hawaiian Gardens criminal street gang is expected to be filed next week, seeking a civil gang injunction to stop activity that causes a public nuisance. The court will be asked to limit activity designed to intimidate residents in an area that includes Hawaiian Gardens and portions of Lakewood, Long Beach and Cypress. This would include possession of weapons, drugs and alcohol; congregating in public places; and trespassing.

Sheriff's deputies served notices on gang members today to inform them of the pending civil lawsuit.

"The injunction is designed to reduce violence in the area and restore security to those who live, work and visit southeast Los Angeles," said District Attorney Steve Cooley.

A member of the gang was sentenced in May to death for murdering Sheriff's Deputy Jerry Ortiz in 2005. The District Attorney's Crimes Against Police Officers Section (CAPOS) successfully prosecuted 20-year-old Jose Luis Orozco before a jury in Norwalk Superior Court.

The first hearing on the civil case is scheduled for Aug. 15 at the Stanley Mosk Courthouse in downtown Los Angeles. Deputy District Attorney Deanne Castorena of the District Attorney's Hardcore Gang Division has been working with the various law enforcement agencies on the civil litigation.

sg

Please read our [Privacy Policy](#).

© 1994-2012 Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office. All Rights Reserved.



Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

[Home](#)

[Crimes of Violence](#)

[Working With Communities](#)

[Fraud & Corruption](#)

[Search](#)

[Meet the D.A.](#)

[Top Documents](#)

[Victim Services](#)

[Consumer Alert](#)

[Bureau of Investigation](#)

[Criminal Justice Institute](#)

[Newsroom](#)

[Job Listings](#)

[Office Overview](#)

[History of the Office](#)

[Office Locations](#)

[Office Directory](#)

[FAQs](#)

[Board Correspondence](#)

[L.A. County Home Page](#)

[Contact Us](#)

Four Charged in Fatal Shooting of Pico Rivera Woman

August 17, 2007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contacts: [Joe Scott](#), Director of Communications

[Sandi Gibbons](#), Public Information Officer

[Jane Robison](#), News Secretary

(213) 974-3525

WHITTIER – Four people were charged today with murder and other charges in the Aug. 10 fatal shooting of a woman who interrupted someone spraying graffiti on a wall, the District Attorney's office announced.

Angel Chris Rojas, 16 (dob 10-30-90), is the alleged shooter who fired into a car driven by Maria Hicks, striking and killing her, said Deputy District Attorney Mike Enomoto with the Hardcore Gang Division.

Rojas is charged in case No. VA102116 along with Cesar Lopez, 19 (dob 11-25-87); Jennifer Ann Tafolla (CQ), 19 (dob 1-3-88); and Richard Daniel Rolon, 21 (dob 7-10-86). The four are each charged with one count of murder, shooting at an occupied motor vehicle, conspiracy and street terrorism. In addition, Rojas is charged with one felony count of unlawful firearm activity and the special allegation that he personally and intentionally discharged a firearm. All four also are charged with the special allegation that they committed the murder to further a criminal street gang.

Rojas, Lopez and Tafolla are scheduled to be arraigned sometime after 1:30 p.m. in Whittier Superior Court, Div. 1. All three are being held on \$4 million bail each.

Rolon is not in custody, and an arrest warrant has been issued for him.

Hicks was shot about 10 p.m. Friday after she flashed her vehicle lights and honked her horn at a someone she saw painting graffiti on a wall at San Gabriel River Parkway and Woodford Street. Rojas, who allegedly was waiting in a car with accomplices, jumped out and opened fire, striking and killing Hicks.

jr

Please read our [Privacy Policy](#).

© 1994-2012 Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office. All Rights Reserved.



Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

[Home](#)[Crimes of Violence](#)[Working With Communities](#)[Fraud & Corruption](#)[Search](#)[Meet the D.A.](#)[Top Documents](#)[Victim Services](#)[Consumer Alert](#)[Bureau of Investigation](#)[Criminal Justice Institute](#)[Newsroom](#)[Job Listings](#)[Office Overview](#)[History of the Office](#)[Office Locations](#)[Office Directory](#)[FAQs](#)[Board Correspondence](#)[L.A. County Home Page](#)[Contact Us](#)

Home Depot Agrees to Pay \$9.9 Million in Landmark California Civil Case

August 17, 2007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contacts: [Joe Scott](#), Director of Communications

[Sandi Gibbons](#), Public Information Officer

[Jane Robison](#), News Secretary

(213) 974-3525

LOS ANGELES – Home Depot agreed today to settle a civil case filed by the California Attorney General, and District Attorneys from Los Angeles, Monterey, Riverside, San Joaquin and Santa Clara counties and the Los Angeles City Attorney for failing to properly store and transport hazardous waste.

As part of the settlement, Home Depot agreed to pay a total of \$9.9 million in civil penalties and investigation and prosecution costs. Of that total, Los Angeles County District Attorney Steve Cooley said his office will receive \$837,000 in civil penalties and costs. The Los Angeles County Fire Department will receive \$250,000 in civil penalties and costs.

The settlement is one of the largest of its kind in the United States for violations of hazardous waste laws by a “big box” retail store chain.

The case originated in May 2004, when a fire occurred at Home Depot's Marina Del Rey store. The contents of a 55-gallon drum exploded, causing a fire during regular business hours and leading to the evacuation of store employees and customers and an emergency response from the Los Angeles City and County Fire Departments.

Prompted by the incident in Playa Del Rey, a hauler contracted by Home Depot was stopped by the California Highway Patrol in Ripon, Calif., while transporting hazardous materials that was lacking proper certification by the state.

These incidents prompted a multi-agency investigation. The investigation concluded that Home Depot had routinely collected hazardous waste that had been created, released, spilled, or accumulated at its stores across California and placed those hazardous wastes in buckets of varying colors for

offsite disposal. Waste haulers who contracted with Home Depot were also found to improperly store and label hazardous waste and material and failed to complete required manifests for all materials being transported by truck.

In addition to paying \$9.9 million, Home Depot will contribute required substantial support for designated environmental training programs and other environmental commitments which benefit the state of California and its citizens.

The settlement also requires Home Depot to contract with waste haulers licensed by the California Department of Toxic Substances and only use Department of Transportation-approved containers for off-site disposal.

Officials said the company was cooperative in reaching this settlement, which must be signed by a judge before it's final.

CONTACT: Stanley Williams, D.A.'s Consumer Protection Division assistant head deputy, 213.580.3243; and Deputy Dist. Atty. Dan Wright, 213.580.3209.

jr

Please read our [Privacy Policy](#).

© 1994-2012 Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office. All Rights Reserved.



Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

[Home](#)

[Crimes of Violence](#)

[Working With Communities](#)

[Fraud & Corruption](#)

[Search](#)

[Meet the D.A.](#)

[Top Documents](#)

[Victim Services](#)

[Consumer Alert](#)

[Bureau of Investigation](#)

[Criminal Justice Institute](#)

[Newsroom](#)

[Job Listings](#)

[Office Overview](#)

[History of the Office](#)

[Office Locations](#)

[Office Directory](#)

[FAQs](#)

[Board Correspondence](#)

[L.A. County Home Page](#)

[Contact Us](#)

Former Sheriff's Deputy Convicted of 16-Year-Old "No Body" Murder of Estranged Wife

August 22, 2007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contacts: [Joe Scott](#), Director of Communications

[Sandi Gibbons](#), Public Information Officer

[Jane Robison](#), News Secretary

(213) 974-3525

SAN FERNANDO – A retired Sheriff's deputy and schoolteacher was convicted today of first-degree murder in the 1991 killing of his estranged wife, whose body never has been found.

"Today's jury conviction culminates a long and thorough investigation by the Sheriff's Homicide Bureau and the talented and professional presentation of evidence by Deputy District Attorneys Beth Silverman and John Lewin of the Major Crimes Division," said District Attorney Steve Cooley. "This verdict shows the power of strong circumstantial evidence."

The jury deliberated a little more than a day before convicting John Racz, 61, of murdering his estranged wife, Ann, 42, in April 1991. Mrs. Racz, mother of the couple's three children, moved out of the family home in Valencia and into a condominium in Newhall a four days before she vanished on April 22, 1991.

Her abandoned car was found at a Fly Away lot in Van Nuys. Although Sheriff's Investigators Frank Salerno and Louie Danoff suspected foul play, Racz claimed his wife and gone on a trip and he had spoken to her by telephone.

The evidence presented to the jury, Silverman said, showed how meticulous Mrs. Racz was. She kept everything in writing and if she went on a trip, she pre-addressed mailing labels so she could send postcards to friends and family.

Silverman said that the circumstantial evidence collected by the original homicide investigators, Frank Salerno and Louie Danoff, was very strong. Both men have since retired, but they said after today's conviction that the case always was on their minds.

Investigators took a new look at the evidence, bringing it to the District Attorney's Major Crimes Division for a possible filing. After reviewing the evidence, it was presented to a grand jury, which returned a one-count murder indictment against Racz on Oct. 19, 2006.

The indictment remained secret and Racz was arrested short time later at Los Angeles International Airport when he returned from Thailand. Bail was set at \$1 million, which Racz posted. He remained free on bail until today, when San Fernando Superior Court Judge Ronald Cohn remanded him into custody after the conviction.

Racz, who became a schoolteacher after retiring from the Sheriff's Department, was Silverman said Racz is scheduled to appear in court on Sept. 14 for sentencing. He is expected to be sentenced to 25 years to life in prison, the statutory penalty for first-degree murder.

Please read our [Privacy Policy](#).

© 1994-2012 Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office. All Rights Reserved.



Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

Home

Crimes of Violence

Working With Communities

Fraud & Corruption

Search

Meet the D.A.

Top Documents

Victim Services

Consumer Alert

Bureau of Investigation

Criminal Justice Institute

Newsroom

Job Listings

Office Overview

History of the Office

Office Locations

Office Directory

FAQs

Board Correspondence

L.A. County Home Page

Contact Us

Teacher Charged with Sexually Assaulting Children

August 22, 2007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contacts: [Joe Scott](#), Director of Communications

[Sandi Gibbons](#), Public Information Officer

[Jane Robison](#), News Secretary

(213) 974-3525

LOS ANGELES -- A John Marshall High School special education teacher was charged today with multiple counts of sexually assaulting three males and one female, the District Attorney's office announced.

Fred David Johnson, 60 (dob 8-7-47), is scheduled to be arraigned after 1:30 p.m. at the Foltz Criminal Justice Center, Division 30, said Deputy District Attorney Frances Young with the Sex Crimes Division. He is charged in case No. BA327806 with one count each of oral copulation of an incompetent person, oral copulation of a person under 16 and lewd act on a child, all felonies. In addition, he is charged with four counts of misdemeanor child molesting and two misdemeanor counts of battery on a dependent adult, who was 19. He is being held on \$800,000 bail.

Johnson allegedly sexually molested three males – ages 14, 18 and 19 -- and a 17-year-old girl, all students at John Marshall High School. The alleged assaults occurred between Jan. 1 and Aug. 20. He was arrested Monday at his North Hollywood home. If convicted, he's facing more than 10 years in state prison.

jr

Please read our [Privacy Policy](#).

© 1994-2012 Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office. All Rights Reserved.



[Home](#)

[Crimes of Violence](#)

[Working With Communities](#)

[Fraud & Corruption](#)

[Search](#)

[Meet the D.A.](#)

[Top Documents](#)

[Victim Services](#)

[Consumer Alert](#)

[Bureau of Investigation](#)

[Criminal Justice Institute](#)

[Newsroom](#)

[Job Listings](#)

[Office Overview](#)

[History of the Office](#)

[Office Locations](#)

[Office Directory](#)

[FAQs](#)

[Board Correspondence](#)

[L.A. County Home Page](#)

[Contact Us](#)

Lindsay Lohan Charged with DUI, Other Charges in Two Separate Incidents

August 23, 2007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contacts: [Joe Scott](#), Director of Communications

[Sandi Gibbons](#), Public Information Officer

[Jane Robison](#), News Secretary

(213) 974-3525

BEVERLY HILLS – Actress Lindsay Lohan was charged today with seven misdemeanor counts, including two counts each of driving under the influence, driving with a blood alcohol of over .08 percent, being under the influence of cocaine and one count of reckless driving, the District Attorney's office announced.

The charges stem from two separate DUI incidents, one in May in Beverly Hills and one in July in Santa Monica. In both incidents, police allegedly found Lohan in possession of cocaine. However, in each incident, the amounts tested were below the .05 grams required by office policy for felony filing.

Deputy District Attorney Danette Meyers said Lohan, 21 (dob 7-2-86) was charged this morning. A conference with Beverly Hills Superior Court Judge H. Chester Horn is scheduled at 1:30 p.m. today in Division 2. Although Lohan's arraignment is set for Friday in Beverly Hills, a disposition may be reached today if the defense asks to have the matter advanced, Meyers said. Lohan does not have to be present at today's conference or Friday's arraignment.

The first three counts stem from a May 26 accident at 5:26 a.m. at Sunset Boulevard and Foothill Drive when Lohan allegedly lost control of her Mercedes and crashed into a tree. She left the scene to seek medical treatment. She later admitted to Beverly Hills police she was the driver of the vehicle. Tests showed that the substance found in her purse was .04 grams of cocaine powder.

The remaining four counts involve a July 24 incident in which Lohan allegedly was driving a white Denali SUV while chasing a second car driven by the mother of Lohan's assistant. The mother of the assistant called police to

report a car chase. The chase ended about 1:30 a.m. in the 1800 block of Main Street at the Santa Monica police station. Officers found a container on Lohan that tested at .02 grams of cocaine.

jr

Please read our [Privacy Policy](#).

© 1994-2012 Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office. All Rights Reserved.



Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

Home

Crimes of Violence

Working With Communities

Fraud & Corruption

Search

Meet the D.A.

Top Documents

Victim Services

Consumer Alert

Bureau of Investigation

Criminal Justice Institute

Newsroom

Job Listings

Office Overview

History of the Office

Office Locations

Office Directory

FAQs

Board Correspondence

L.A. County Home Page

Contact Us

Reputed Gang Member Charged with Murder

August 27, 2007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contacts: [Joe Scott](#), Director of Communications

[Sandi Gibbons](#), Public Information Officer

[Jane Robison](#), News Secretary

(213) 974-3525

PASADENA – A paroled felon was charged today with the Aug. 17 fatal shooting of a 16-year-old girl at a party, the District Attorney's office announced.

Johnl (CQ) Dvon Reynolds, 19 (dob 9-10-87), was charged in Case No. GA070749 with one count of murder, one count of attempted murder and one count of possession of a firearm by a felon, said Deputy District Attorney Michelle Humphrey with the Hardcore Gang Division. The felony complaint also alleges the murder and attempted murder were committed to further a criminal street gang and that Reynolds personally discharged a handgun.

Ebony Huel, 16, was shot to death outside a youth party held in the 2000 block of Lincoln Avenue in Northwest Pasadena on Aug. 17.

Reynolds is scheduled to be arraigned after 1:30 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 28, at Pasadena Superior Court, Dept. D. He is being held on \$3.1 million bail.

jr

Please read our [Privacy Policy](#).

© 1994-2012 Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office. All Rights Reserved.



[Home](#)

[Crimes of Violence](#)

[Working With Communities](#)

[Fraud & Corruption](#)

[Search](#)

[Meet the D.A.](#)

[Top Documents](#)

[Victim Services](#)

[Consumer Alert](#)

[Bureau of Investigation](#)

[Criminal Justice Institute](#)

[Newsroom](#)

[Job Listings](#)

[Office Overview](#)

[History of the Office](#)

[Office Locations](#)

[Office Directory](#)

[FAQs](#)

[Board Correspondence](#)

[L.A. County Home Page](#)

[Contact Us](#)

Suspected Gang Member Charged with Murder in Fatal Liquor Store Shooting

August 28, 2007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contacts: [Joe Scott](#), Director of Communications

[Sandi Gibbons](#), Public Information Officer

[Jane Robison](#), News Secretary

(213) 974-3525

LOS ANGELES – An 18-year-old reputed gang member was charged today with capital murder and other charges in the July 19 fatal shooting of an employee at the Limelight Liquor Store in Hollywood, the District Attorney's office announced.

Rodney Bourgeois, (dob 3-26-89), is charged in case No. BA328073 with one count of murder with the special circumstance that the murder was committed during an attempted robbery and a burglary. In addition, Bourgeois is charged with attempted murder, attempted second-degree robbery and second-degree commercial burglary with the special allegations that he personally discharged a firearm. He is being held without bail.

Prosecutors will decide later whether to seek the death penalty.

Bourgeois is scheduled to be arraigned after 2:30 p.m. at the Foltz Criminal Courts Building, Division 30. The case was filed by the D.A.'s Hardcore Gang Division.

Police said Bourgeois allegedly grabbed Pulod Davlatnazarov and held him at gunpoint while demanding money from a clerk behind the counter. Bourgeois allegedly shot both men after the second employee set off an alarm. Davlatnazarov died of his wounds. The second victim is recovering.

The shooting occurred about 6:30 pm. in the 1600 block of La Brea Avenue.

jr

Please read our [Privacy Policy](#).

© 1994-2012 Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office. All Rights Reserved.



Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

Home

Crimes of Violence

Working With Communities

Fraud & Corruption

Search

Meet the D.A.

Top Documents

Victim Services

Consumer Alert

Bureau of Investigation

Criminal Justice Institute

Newsroom

Job Listings

Office Overview

History of the Office

Office Locations

Office Directory

FAQs

Board Correspondence

L.A. County Home Page

Contact Us

Man Pleads No Contest in Fatal PCH Collision

August 29, 2007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contacts: [Joe Scott](#), Director of Communications

[Sandi Gibbons](#), Public Information Officer

[Jane Robison](#), News Secretary

(213) 974-3525

LOS ANGELES – A 24-year-old man pleaded no contest Wednesday to two counts of gross vehicular manslaughter while intoxicated in connection with the April fatal crash that killed a well-known film director and his son, the District Attorney's office announced.

Hector Manuel Velazquez Nava entered his plea before Airport Superior Court Judge Keith Schwartz, said Deputy District Attorney Belle Chen.

Velazquez-Nava admitted driving a GMC Yukon that hit a 1997 Infiniti driven by film director Robert Clark, 67. Clark and his son, Ariel Hanrath-Clark, 22, were both killed. The accident occurred April 4 about 2:20 a.m. on PCH between Sunset Boulevard and Temescal Canyon Road. Velazquez-Nava had a blood alcohol content of .24 percent, three times the legal limit.

He is facing six years in state prison when he is sentenced Sept. 27 at Airport Superior Court, Dept. D.

jr

Please read our [Privacy Policy](#).

© 1994-2012 Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office. All Rights Reserved.



Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

[Home](#)

[Crimes of Violence](#)

[Working With Communities](#)

[Fraud & Corruption](#)

[Search](#)

[Meet the D.A.](#)

[Top Documents](#)

[Victim Services](#)

[Consumer Alert](#)

[Bureau of Investigation](#)

[Criminal Justice Institute](#)

[Newsroom](#)

[Job Listings](#)

[Office Overview](#)

[History of the Office](#)

[Office Locations](#)

[Office Directory](#)

[FAQs](#)

[Board Correspondence](#)

[L.A. County Home Page](#)

[Contact Us](#)

Man Charged with Capital Murder in Fatal Stabbing of Woman in Glendale

August 29, 2007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contacts: [Joe Scott](#), Director of Communications

[Sandi Gibbons](#), Public Information Officer

[Jane Robison](#), News Secretary

(213) 974-3525

PASADENA – A capital murder case was filed by the District Attorney's office today against a man accused of fatally stabbing a woman in Glendale on Monday.

Hector Everado Marroquin, 23 (dob 3-26-1984), was scheduled to appear for arraignment this afternoon in Department D of Pasadena Superior Court. He was arrested shortly after the killing and remains in custody.

Marroquin was charged in case No. GA070786 with one count of murder. The special circumstance of lying in wait was alleged, but the District Attorney's office will not decide whether to seek the death penalty until the case moves closer to trial. The complaint also alleged that Marroquin personally used a knife to kill Joanne Sarkis, 32.

Glendale police said the woman was killed outside an Alcoholic Anonymous club, Glendale Windsor Club on West Windsor Road, Monday evening.

Marroquin gave a Glendale address as a residence when arrested.

sg

Please read our [Privacy Policy](#).

© 1994-2012 Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office. All Rights Reserved.



[Home](#)

[Crimes of Violence](#)

[Working With Communities](#)

[Fraud & Corruption](#)

[Search](#)

[Meet the D.A.](#)

[Top Documents](#)

[Victim Services](#)

[Consumer Alert](#)

[Bureau of Investigation](#)

[Criminal Justice Institute](#)

[Newsroom](#)

[Job Listings](#)

[Office Overview](#)

[History of the Office](#)

[Office Locations](#)

[Office Directory](#)

[FAQs](#)

[Board Correspondence](#)

[L.A. County Home Page](#)

[Contact Us](#)

Two Charged in Hacienda Heights Rock-Throwing Incidents

June 22, 2007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contacts: [Joe Scott](#), Director of Communications

[Sandi Gibbons](#), Public Information Officer

[Jane Robison](#), News Secretary

(213) 974-3525

WEST COVINA – Assault with a deadly weapon and other felony charges have been filed against two men accused of throwing bricks, bottles and other objects at vehicles from a Hacienda Heights overpass of the Pomona (60) Freeway earlier this week, the District Attorney's office announced today.

The case against the pair was filed late yesterday. Arraignment is expected this afternoon in Department 8 of Citrus Superior Court in West Covina.

Case No. KA079722 charges the defendants with four counts of assault with a deadly weapon involving four victims in two vehicles and two counts of throwing a substance at a vehicle. Bail for each defendant was recommended at \$500,000.

Justin Adam Pecor, 20 (dob 6/4/1987), and Anthony John Balsz, 24 (dob 5/29/1983), were arrested by Sheriff's deputies on Tuesday after heavy objects were thrown into the eastbound lanes of the Pomona Freeway from the overpass between Hacienda Boulevard and Azusa Avenue.

Two vehicles – one containing three people – were the alleged targets. A man and a woman riding in one of the cars were injured. The driver of the second vehicle – a truck – was not hurt.

sg

Please read our [Privacy Policy](#).

© 1994-2012 Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office. All Rights Reserved.



Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

[Home](#)

[Crimes of Violence](#)

[Working With Communities](#)

[Fraud & Corruption](#)

[Search](#)

[Meet the D.A.](#)

[Top Documents](#)

[Victim Services](#)

[Consumer Alert](#)

[Bureau of Investigation](#)

[Criminal Justice Institute](#)

[Newsroom](#)

[Job Listings](#)

[Office Overview](#)

[History of the Office](#)

[Office Locations](#)

[Office Directory](#)

[FAQs](#)

[Board Correspondence](#)

[L.A. County Home Page](#)

[Contact Us](#)

D.A. Statement on Archdiocese Settlement

July 16, 2007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contacts: [Joe Scott](#), Director of Communications

[Sandi Gibbons](#), Public Information Officer

[Jane Robison](#), News Secretary

(213) 974-3525

LOS ANGELES – District Attorney Steve Cooley issued the following statement today on the archdiocese settlement:

“Today’s massive civil settlement highlights the institutional moral failure of the archdiocese to supervise predatory priests who operated for years under its jurisdiction.

“Our office worked for five years to obtain archdiocese records regarding the alleged criminal acts committed by these priests. The archdiocese resisted our efforts. We successfully obtained these records through the California Supreme Court. The U.S. Supreme Court ruled in our favor last year.

“While we were attempting to obtain records from the archdiocese, the U.S. Supreme Court in another case – *Stogner* – significantly limited statutes of limitation allowing prosecution of molestation cases. This poses a continuing legal problem to us.

“We are aware there could be records that may become available to us as a result of today’s settlement. If these documents reveal evidence of criminal activity on behalf of individual priests or anyone else, we will pursue them.

“The book is not closed on our investigation.”

sg

Please read our [Privacy Policy](#).

© 1994-2012 Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office. All Rights Reserved.



Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

[Home](#)

[Crimes of Violence](#)

[Working With Communities](#)

[Fraud & Corruption](#)

[Search](#)

[Meet the D.A.](#)

[Top Documents](#)

[Victim Services](#)

[Consumer Alert](#)

[Bureau of Investigation](#)

[Criminal Justice Institute](#)

[Newsroom](#)

[Job Listings](#)

[Office Overview](#)

[History of the Office](#)

[Office Locations](#)

[Office Directory](#)

[FAQs](#)

[Board Correspondence](#)

[L.A. County Home Page](#)

[Contact Us](#)

Former Priest Arrested, Charged with Sexual Molestation

July 24, 2007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contacts: [Joe Scott](#), Director of Communications

[Sandi Gibbons](#), Public Information Officer

[Jane Robison](#), News Secretary

(213) 974-3525

LOS ANGELES – A former priest with the Archdiocese of Los Angeles was arrested today on a felony complaint charging him with multiple counts of sexual molestation of a child under the age of 14, the District Attorney's office announced.

George Miller, 69 (dob 3-12-38), was arrested at his residence in Oxnard by investigators with the District Attorney's Bureau of Investigation. He is charged in case No. PA059590 with three counts of lewd act on a child and three counts of sodomy of a person under 14 – all felonies. He is being held on \$600,000 bail.

"As promised, investigations are ongoing into alleged sexual abuse of minors by priests," Dist. Atty. Steve Cooley said today. "As evidence is developed to sustain criminal filings, we will do so."

Miller allegedly met the victim when he was 5 years old while Miller was assigned to the Guardian Angel Church in Pacoima. Miller allegedly befriended the victim's mother and became a frequent guest in her home. He allegedly first formed a close relationship with the victim's older brother. Miller began taking the victim on overnight trips and allegedly began sexually molesting him. He's charged with sexually molesting the victim between March 1988 to March 1991.

In 2002, Miller was originally charged with 24 counts of sex crimes against minors involving John Doe's older brother and two other male minors, who were brothers. That case was dismissed in 2003 pursuant to the U.S. Supreme Court's Stogner decision that ruled California's statute of limitations extension was unconstitutional. Deputy District Attorney Sam Dordulian with the Target Crimes Division will prosecute the case.

Miller is scheduled to be arraigned after 8:30 a.m. on Wednesday, July 25, in San Fernando Superior Court. If convicted, he is facing up to 18 years in state prison.

jr

Please read our [Privacy Policy](#).

© 1994-2012 Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office. All Rights Reserved.



Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

[Home](#)

[Crimes of Violence](#)

[Working With Communities](#)

[Fraud & Corruption](#)

[Search](#)

[Meet the D.A.](#)

[Top Documents](#)

[Victim Services](#)

[Consumer Alert](#)

[Bureau of Investigation](#)

[Criminal Justice Institute](#)

[Newsroom](#)

[Job Listings](#)

[Office Overview](#)

[History of the Office](#)

[Office Locations](#)

[Office Directory](#)

[FAQs](#)

[Board Correspondence](#)

[L.A. County Home Page](#)

[Contact Us](#)

Man Charged with Murder in Hollywood Hills

June 5, 2007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contacts: [Joe Scott](#), Director of Communications

[Sandi Gibbons](#), Public Information Officer

[Jane Robison](#), News Secretary

(213) 974-3525

LOS ANGELES – Prosecutors charged today a Hollywood Hills man with the fatal shooting of his girlfriend, whose body has not been found, the District Attorney's office announced.

Deputy District Attorney Cathryn Brougham with the Major Crimes Division said David Mahler, 43 (dob 3-7-64), is charged with the May 27 murder of Kristin Baldwin. He is also charged with assault with a firearm on Donald Van Develde. Brougham said Mahler and the Los Angeles woman were dating but she was not living at Mahler's Cole Crest Drive residence.

Witnesses say the two were arguing when Mahler allegedly shot and killed her. He also allegedly disposed of the body and tried to cleanup the crime scene. LAPD detectives were not notified of the shooting until several days later.

Mahler is scheduled to be arraigned after 1:30 p.m. in Division 30 of the Foltz Criminal Justice Center, 210 W. Temple St. He is charged in case No. BA323719.

Brougham will request he be held without bail. If convicted, he's facing up to 50 years to life in prison.

jr

Please read our [Privacy Policy](#).

© 1994-2012 Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office. All Rights Reserved.



Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

[Home](#)

[Crimes of Violence](#)

[Working With Communities](#)

[Fraud & Corruption](#)

[Search](#)

[Meet the D.A.](#)

[Top Documents](#)

[Victim Services](#)

[Consumer Alert](#)

[Bureau of Investigation](#)

[Criminal Justice Institute](#)

[Newsroom](#)

[Job Listings](#)

[Office Overview](#)

[History of the Office](#)

[Office Locations](#)

[Office Directory](#)

[FAQs](#)

[Board Correspondence](#)

[L.A. County Home Page](#)

[Contact Us](#)

Insurance Adjuster Pleads in Fraud Case

June 6, 2007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contacts: [Joe Scott](#), Director of Communications

[Sandi Gibbons](#), Public Information Officer

[Jane Robison](#), News Secretary

(213) 974-3525

VAN NUYS – An insurance adjuster pleaded guilty today to conspiracy and fraud in the theft of nearly \$50,000 from a Woodland Hills company, the District Attorney's office announced.

Deputy District Attorney Loren Naiman said Jacinto Antonio Barrientos, 35, was immediately sentenced to a year in county jail as a condition of five years of probation. He also was ordered to pay Unitrin Insurance Co. of Woodland Hills \$45,199 in restitution.

The same sentence was imposed by Judge Michael Kellogg in the case of co-defendant Lisa Ann Hiersekorn, 40. She pleaded no contest to conspiracy and insurance fraud.

Naiman said Barrientos added Hiersekorn's name to claims and split the checks with her when they came in. The defendants were charged in mid-May. Each has remained in custody since their arrests after the case was filed.

Barrientos worked for the insurance company and lived in the San Fernando Valley. Hiersekorn lived in Orange County.

The case was investigated by the California Department of Insurance and presented to the District Attorney's Auto Insurance Fraud Division for filing.

Naiman said the crimes occurred between June 2005 and July 2006.

sg

Please read our [Privacy Policy](#).



Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

Home

Crimes of Violence

Working With Communities

Fraud & Corruption

Search

Meet the D.A.

Top Documents

Victim Services

Consumer Alert

Bureau of Investigation

Criminal Justice Institute

Newsroom

Job Listings

Office Overview

History of the Office

Office Locations

Office Directory

FAQs

Board Correspondence

L.A. County Home Page

Contact Us

Suspected Bank Robber Charged

June 7, 2007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contacts: [Joe Scott](#), Director of Communications

[Sandi Gibbons](#), Public Information Officer

[Jane Robison](#), News Secretary

(213) 974-3525

GLENDAL – The man dubbed the “Irreconcilable Differences” bank robber was charged today with 25 counts of robbery and other charges following an alleged robbery spree around the Los Angeles area, the District Attorney's office announced.

Alan Freibaum, 55 (dob 9-14-51), made his first appearance in a Burbank Superior Court today. Arraignment was continued to June 21 in Division 1, said Deputy District Attorney Vivian Moreno. Freibaum was being held on more than \$2 million bail.

Freibaum is charged with robbing the Bank of America in Beverly Hills on Dec. 22, 2006, during which he allegedly told a teller he was going through a divorce. In all, he's charged with second-degree robbery and grand theft of 10 banks, including banks in Santa Monica, Glendale, Encino and Los Angeles. He is suspected of taking more than \$44,000.

If convicted, he's facing up to 27 years to life in prison. He is charged in case No. GA069924.

jr

Please read our [Privacy Policy](#).

© 1994-2012 Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office. All Rights Reserved.



Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

[Home](#)

[Crimes of Violence](#)

[Working With Communities](#)

[Fraud & Corruption](#)

[Search](#)

[Meet the D.A.](#)

[Top Documents](#)

[Victim Services](#)

[Consumer Alert](#)

[Bureau of Investigation](#)

[Criminal Justice Institute](#)

[Newsroom](#)

[Job Listings](#)

[Office Overview](#)

[History of the Office](#)

[Office Locations](#)

[Office Directory](#)

[FAQs](#)

[Board Correspondence](#)

[L.A. County Home Page](#)

[Contact Us](#)

Former Alhambra Council Member, Business Partner Plead Guilty in Bribery Case

June 8, 2007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contacts: [Joe Scott](#), Director of Communications

[Sandi Gibbons](#), Public Information Officer

[Jane Robison](#), News Secretary

(213) 974-3525

ALHAMBRA – A former Alhambra councilman and his business partner both pleaded guilty today to one felony count of trying to bribe a councilman three years ago in exchange for his support on a senior housing project, the District Attorney's office announced.

John Parker Williams, the 69-year-old former councilman, and his business partner Frank Liu, 73, both pleaded guilty to Alhambra Superior Court Judge Lisa Lench, said Deputy District Attorney Sandi Roth with the Public Integrity Division.

Judge Lench sentenced Williams to three years state prison, suspended, and placed him on three formal probation and ordered him to serve one year in the county jail. He also was fined \$1,000. Williams was ordered to surrender for his jail sentence on July 9, Roth said.

Liu also was sentenced to three years state prison, suspended, and placed on three years formal probation. He was fined \$10,000.

On Aug. 18, 2004, Williams met Alhambra's Vice Mayor Daniel Arguello at a Main Street restaurant and asked for his help in getting \$600,000 in city money for a senior housing project that Williams and Liu wanted to build. He also asked Arguello to help waive about \$80,000 in permit fees for the proposed project. Williams then handed \$25,000 in cash in a manila envelope to Arguello, who was cooperating with the D.A.'s Bureau of Investigation.

Roth said Liu provided the cash. In exchange for their guilty pleas, one count each of conspiracy and money laundering were dismissed.

jr

Please read our [Privacy Policy](#).

© 1994-2012 Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office. All Rights Reserved.



Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

[Home](#)

[Crimes of Violence](#)

[Working With Communities](#)

[Fraud & Corruption](#)

[Search](#)

[Meet the D.A.](#)

[Top Documents](#)

[Victim Services](#)

[Consumer Alert](#)

[Bureau of Investigation](#)

[Criminal Justice Institute](#)

[Newsroom](#)

[Job Listings](#)

[Office Overview](#)

[History of the Office](#)

[Office Locations](#)

[Office Directory](#)

[FAQs](#)

[Board Correspondence](#)

[L.A. County Home Page](#)

[Contact Us](#)

Korean Attorney Pleads Guilty, Sentenced to Four Years in State Prison in Two Cases

June 11, 2007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contacts: [Joe Scott](#), Director of Communications

[Sandi Gibbons](#), Public Information Officer

[Jane Robison](#), News Secretary

(213) 974-3525

LOS ANGELES – A 49-year-old Korean attorney who earlier pleaded guilty to forging documents and preparing false evidence pleaded no contest today in a separate case to three counts of grand theft, the District Attorney's office announced.

Deputy District Attorney Elizabeth Munisoglu with the Justice System Integrity Division said Charlie C. Chi entered the plea before Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Anne Egerton.

Judge Egerton sentenced Chi to four years in state prison for both cases. She also ordered him to pay \$218,550 in restitution to three former clients. Chi admitted spending \$100,000 in a trust fund account of a client. He also defrauded two victims by offering to sell a franchise without following state law.

Chi was first arrested in January 2004 on a felony arrest warrant charging him with one count of bribery of a witness. While that case was pending the California State Bar referred a second case to the D.A.'s office. In the second case, Chi allegedly enticed a businessman living in Korea into buying a Culver City coffee shop even though he didn't have the proper documentation to sell it, Munisoglu said.

He pleaded guilty in 2005 to two counts of forgery and was ordered to pay \$75,000 in restitution in that case. To date, he's repaid \$13,000, Munisoglu said. In the earlier case, Chi allegedly approached the mother of a 7-year-old girl after she testified during a 2003 preliminary hearing that a family member had sexually molested her. Chi allegedly tried to get the mother to interfere with the victim's availability for trial. He allegedly also tried to encourage the mother to testify that she forgave the defendant in an effort to seek leniency for the defendant if he was convicted. Those charges were dismissed after

he pleaded in the forgery case.

jr

Please read our [Privacy Policy](#).

© 1994-2012 Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office. All Rights Reserved.



Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

[Home](#)

[Crimes of Violence](#)

[Working With Communities](#)

[Fraud & Corruption](#)

[Search](#)

[Meet the D.A.](#)

[Top Documents](#)

[Victim Services](#)

[Consumer Alert](#)

[Bureau of Investigation](#)

[Criminal Justice Institute](#)

[Newsroom](#)

[Job Listings](#)

[Office Overview](#)

[History of the Office](#)

[Office Locations](#)

[Office Directory](#)

[FAQs](#)

[Board Correspondence](#)

[L.A. County Home Page](#)

[Contact Us](#)

Man Charged in Fatal Bat Attack

June 15, 2007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contacts: [Joe Scott](#), Director of Communications

[Sandi Gibbons](#), Public Information Officer

[Jane Robison](#), News Secretary

(213) 974-3525

LOS ANGELES – A 28-year-old Los Angeles man was charged today with murder in the May 29 attack with a baseball bat of a mentally disabled man, the District Attorney's office announced.

Jason Ryan Verador, (dob 4-17-79), is expected to be arraigned this afternoon at the Foltz Criminal Justice Center, Div. 30. He is charged in case No. BA324295 with one count of murder with the special allegation that he personally used a deadly weapon, a bat. He is being held on \$1 million bail.

Verador allegedly struck Jason McKinney from behind as McKinney was walking at Wilton Place and Olympic. The attack occurred about 8:45 p.m. McKinney died several days later. The attack was captured by surveillance video. A witness recognized the suspect from the video played on TV and alerted police.

jr

Please read our [Privacy Policy](#).

© 1994-2012 Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office. All Rights Reserved.



Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

[Home](#)

[Crimes of Violence](#)

[Working With Communities](#)

[Fraud & Corruption](#)

[Search](#)

[Meet the D.A.](#)

[Top Documents](#)

[Victim Services](#)

[Consumer Alert](#)

[Bureau of Investigation](#)

[Criminal Justice Institute](#)

[Newsroom](#)

[Job Listings](#)

[Office Overview](#)

[History of the Office](#)

[Office Locations](#)

[Office Directory](#)

[FAQs](#)

[Board Correspondence](#)

[L.A. County Home Page](#)

[Contact Us](#)

Former City Planning Commissioner Charged

June 15, 2007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contacts: [Joe Scott](#), Director of Communications

[Sandi Gibbons](#), Public Information Officer

[Jane Robison](#), News Secretary

(213) 974-3525

WEST COVINA – A former West Covina Planning Commission member was charged today with conflict of interest and perjury after he allegedly failed to disclose a personal loan from a developer and then voted on a proposal involving the developer, the District Attorney's office announced.

Carlos Manuel Thrasher, 42 (dob 11-7-64), is scheduled to surrender on Monday to be arraigned, said Deputy District Attorney Jonlyn Callahan with the Public Integrity Division. Thrasher was charged in case KA079484 with two misdemeanor counts of conflict of interest, one felony count of perjury and one misdemeanor count of failure to disclose economic interests in violation of the Government.

In December 2005, Thrasher was appointed as a planning commissioner for the City of West Covina. In a statement of economic interest, he allegedly failed to disclose a \$17,165 loan from Eastland Tower Partnership and CEO Ziad Alhassen for office space that Thrasher had leased through ETP. On Jan. 24, 2006 and again on Feb. 14, 2006, Thrasher voted on a proposed housing development known as Inspiration Point by Alhassen's company. The second time, Thrasher actually voted against a time extension for the project, allegedly after he and Alhassen had a disagreement over the loan.

If convicted, he's facing up to four years in state prison.

jr

Please read our [Privacy Policy](#).

© 1994-2012 Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office. All Rights Reserved.



Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

Home

Crimes of Violence

Working With Communities

Fraud & Corruption

Search

Meet the D.A.

Top Documents

Victim Services

Consumer Alert

Bureau of Investigation

Criminal Justice Institute

Newsroom

Job Listings

Office Overview

History of the Office

Office Locations

Office Directory

FAQs

Board Correspondence

L.A. County Home Page

Contact Us

Attorney Found Guilty of Embezzling from 89-Year-Old Victim

June 15, 2007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contacts: [Joe Scott](#), Director of Communications

[Sandi Gibbons](#), Public Information Officer

[Jane Robison](#), News Secretary

(213) 974-3525

LOS ANGELES – A 69-year-old Palos Verdes attorney was convicted today of embezzling \$150,000 from the trust of a woman who once served as a secretary to Walt Disney, the District Attorney's office announced.

A Los Angeles Superior Court jury deliberated just two hours before finding Salvatore Patrick Osio guilty of one count each of theft from an elder, grand theft, forgery and perjury, said Deputy District Attorney Sean Hassett with the Justice System Integrity Division.

Shortly after he was hired by Alicia Waters and her husband, Henry, in July 2002, Osio embezzled \$150,000 from the couple's trust fund. Alicia Waters, 89, discovered the theft after her husband's death and reported it to the California State Bar, which referred the case to the L.A. County District Attorney's Bureau of Investigation. Mrs. Waters died in November 2005 at the age of 92.

Osio faces up to six years, eight months in state prison when he is sentenced on July 11 by Judge George Lomeli. The judge denied the prosecution's request to take Osio into custody. Bail was increased to \$80,000.

jr

Please read our [Privacy Policy](#).

© 1994-2012 Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office. All Rights Reserved.



Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

[Home](#)

[Crimes of Violence](#)

[Working With Communities](#)

[Fraud & Corruption](#)

[Search](#)

[Meet the D.A.](#)

[Top Documents](#)

[Victim Services](#)

[Consumer Alert](#)

[Bureau of Investigation](#)

[Criminal Justice Institute](#)

[Newsroom](#)

[Job Listings](#)

[Office Overview](#)

[History of the Office](#)

[Office Locations](#)

[Office Directory](#)

[FAQs](#)

[Board Correspondence](#)

[L.A. County Home Page](#)

[Contact Us](#)

Lynwood Pet Shop Owner Indicted on Charges of Animal Cruelty

June 18, 2007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contacts: [Joe Scott](#), Director of Communications

[Sandi Gibbons](#), Public Information Officer

[Jane Robison](#), News Secretary

(213) 974-3525

LOS ANGELES – The owner-operator of the Animal House Pet Store in Lynwood was arraigned today on an indictment charging him with animal cruelty over a three-year period and practicing veterinary medicine without a license.

The 26-count indictment (BA327010) against 52-year-old Young Sam Park (dob 3-14-1955) was returned by the Los Angeles County Grand Jury on Friday and unsealed today when the defendant pleaded not guilty before Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Steven R. Van Sicklen. Park, who was arrested on Friday by Sheriff's deputies, remains in custody on \$451,500 bail.

Park's case was transferred to Compton Superior Court. The defendant was ordered to appear in Compton Department D tomorrow morning for further proceedings.

The indictment alleged that between 2004 and 2007, the defendant killed, maimed and mistreated dozens of animals, including dogs, cats, a guinea pig and rats. According to the indictment, the crimes included operating on animals without anesthesia, dumping dying pets in dumpsters, suffocating pets with rubber gloves, choking animals, using wire and fishing line to sew up animals, using dirty and unsanitary tools, taping dogs to operating tables and other offenses.

The defendant was charged with 22 felony counts of cruelty to animals, one felony count of illegal possession of pentobarbital and three misdemeanor counts of practicing veterinary medicine without a license.

The case was investigated by the District Attorney's Bureau of Investigation and Los Angeles County Animal Control following complaints to the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals-Los Angeles (SPCA-LA).

Deputy District Attorney Damare Theriot of the Compton office presented the case to the grand jury and will prosecute Park. If convicted, the defendant faces a possible maximum state prison term of 22 years.

sg

Please read our [Privacy Policy](#).

© 1994-2012 Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office. All Rights Reserved.



Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

[Home](#)

[Crimes of Violence](#)

[Working With Communities](#)

[Fraud & Corruption](#)

[Search](#)

[Meet the D.A.](#)

[Top Documents](#)

[Victim Services](#)

[Consumer Alert](#)

[Bureau of Investigation](#)

[Criminal Justice Institute](#)

[Newsroom](#)

[Job Listings](#)

[Office Overview](#)

[History of the Office](#)

[Office Locations](#)

[Office Directory](#)

[FAQs](#)

[Board Correspondence](#)

[L.A. County Home Page](#)

[Contact Us](#)

Former Police Officer Arrested, Charged with Rape, Assault

June 19, 2007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contacts: [Joe Scott](#), Director of Communications

[Sandi Gibbons](#), Public Information Officer

[Jane Robison](#), News Secretary

(213) 974-3525

LOS ANGELES – A former Bell police officer has been arrested and charged with rape, assault with a deadly weapon, stalking and other charges involving several alleged incidents, the District Attorney's office announced.

Juan Reyes, 31 (dob 3-17-76), is scheduled to be arraigned today at the Foltz Criminal Justice Center, Div. 30, said Deputy District Attorney Renee Cartaya with the Justice System Integrity Division.

Reyes, who left the Bell Police Department in May, is charged in case No. BA324117 with two counts of assault with a deadly weapon upon a peace officer; three counts of assault with a deadly weapon; one count of rape; two counts of residential burglary; one count of stalking – all felonies. He also is charged with two misdemeanor counts of domestic violence. Cartaya ask he be held without bail.

The charges involve several different alleged incidents and several alleged victims over a two-year period. On April 15, 2006, Reyes allegedly nearly ran two Glendale Police officers over with his car in a parking structure as the two officers were conducting an investigation.

On July 15, 2005, Reyes allegedly threatened a woman he was dating and two other people with a gun during an off-duty altercation at a club in Maywood. That same night, he allegedly followed his girlfriend home and raped her. On Dec. 2 and Dec. 19, 2006, Reyes allegedly broke into his girlfriend's home. Later, when the relationship was over, Reyes allegedly continued to leave harassing phone calls and stalk her.

Reyes, who is married and lives in South Gate, also allegedly pushed his wife in April and June 3 at their home. He is charged with two misdemeanor counts of battery and one misdemeanor count of disobeying a restraining

order.

If convicted, he's facing up to 24 years, eight months in state prison.

jr

Please read our [Privacy Policy](#).

© 1994-2012 Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office. All Rights Reserved.



Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

[Home](#)

[Crimes of Violence](#)

[Working With Communities](#)

[Fraud & Corruption](#)

[Search](#)

[Meet the D.A.](#)

[Top Documents](#)

[Victim Services](#)

[Consumer Alert](#)

[Bureau of Investigation](#)

[Criminal Justice Institute](#)

[Newsroom](#)

[Job Listings](#)

[Office Overview](#)

[History of the Office](#)

[Office Locations](#)

[Office Directory](#)

[FAQs](#)

[Board Correspondence](#)

[L.A. County Home Page](#)

[Contact Us](#)

Gardena Couple Charged with Child Abuse

June 22, 2007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contacts: [Joe Scott](#), Director of Communications

[Sandi Gibbons](#), Public Information Officer

[Jane Robison](#), News Secretary

(213) 974-3525

TORRANCE – A Gardena couple whose 4-year-old son was rescued from their burning apartment early today by Gardena police were charged this afternoon with child abuse.

The felony complaint (YA068577) filed in Torrance Superior Court also alleged one count of being under the influence of methamphetamine when the pre-dawn blaze occurred in the 16700 block of South Halldale Avenue in Gardena.

William Spitzer, 55 (dob 6-15-1952), and Nicole Elizabeth Spitzer, 33 (12-4-1973), are expected to appear for arraignment on Monday in Torrance Superior Court. Each is being held on \$100,000 bail.

Deputy District Attorney Craig Hum, who filed the case, said when police arrived at the burning apartment, they rescued the Spitzers, who said their son was inside. Police went back into the apartment and rescued the boy. He was treated for smoke inhalation.

sg

Please read our [Privacy Policy](#).

© 1994-2012 Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office. All Rights Reserved.



Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

[Home](#)[Crimes of Violence](#)[Working With Communities](#)[Fraud & Corruption](#)[Search](#)[Meet the D.A.](#)[Top Documents](#)[Victim Services](#)[Consumer Alert](#)[Bureau of Investigation](#)[Criminal Justice Institute](#)[Newsroom](#)[Job Listings](#)[Office Overview](#)[History of the Office](#)[Office Locations](#)[Office Directory](#)[FAQs](#)[Board Correspondence](#)[L.A. County Home Page](#)[Contact Us](#)

Response of the District Attorney's Office Regarding the Los Angeles City Attorney

June 22, 2007

Due to numerous requests for comment by the District Attorney's Office concerning recent allegations of improper conduct by the Los Angeles City Attorney, Rocky Delgadillo, the office has prepared the following comments:

Statement by the District Attorney's Office

"Recent media stories suggesting improper conduct by Los Angeles City Attorney Rocky Delgadillo justifiably raise concerns. However, because of Mr. Delgadillo's stated interest in running for the Office of District Attorney next year, any comment by District Attorney Steve Cooley is inappropriate, and any action could be seen as a conflict.

"This office will therefore defer any comment on this issue. Ethical issues should be handled by the Los Angeles Ethics Commission and/or the City Controller. Allegations that merit a criminal investigation will be referred to the California Attorney General's Office."

[Letter to the Attorney General Referring Potential Allegations of Criminal Conduct \(PDF 261 kb\)](#)

Review of State Laws Pertaining to Potential Conflicts of Interest

Penal Code section 1424 requires the recusal of the District Attorney's Office where "the evidence shows that a conflict of interest exists that would render it unlikely that the defendant would receive a fair trial." The mere appearance of a conflict is sufficient to merit recusal if this standard is met.

In regards to any potential investigation and prosecution of City Attorney Rocky Delgadillo, the appearance of a conflict of interest would exist at this time because Mr. Delgadillo is considering running against District Attorney Steve Cooley in the upcoming election. Under these circumstances, a reviewing court could conclude that it would be unlikely that Mr. Delgadillo would receive equitable treatment by this office, and hence not receive a "fair

trial.” The only way to dissipate this perception is to recuse the office from any investigation or prosecution of Mr. Delgadillo, and to allow the Attorney General to act as the prosecutorial agency.

If the Attorney General is found to have a conflict of interest as well, a special prosecutor could be appointed pursuant to Penal Code section 936.5. Utilizing this procedure, a Grand Jury would be convened, and upon their recommendation, the presiding judge could appoint a special prosecutor.

Please read our [Privacy Policy](#).

© 1994-2012 Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office. All Rights Reserved.



[Home](#)

[Crimes of Violence](#)

[Working With Communities](#)

[Fraud & Corruption](#)

[Search](#)

[Meet the D.A.](#)

[Top Documents](#)

[Victim Services](#)

[Consumer Alert](#)

[Bureau of Investigation](#)

[Criminal Justice Institute](#)

[Newsroom](#)

[Job Listings](#)

[Office Overview](#)

[History of the Office](#)

[Office Locations](#)

[Office Directory](#)

[FAQs](#)

[Board Correspondence](#)

[L.A. County Home Page](#)

[Contact Us](#)

High School Football Star Convicted of First-Degree Murder in Drive-By Shooting

June 22, 2007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contacts: [Joe Scott](#), Director of Communications

[Sandi Gibbons](#), Public Information Officer

[Jane Robison](#), News Secretary

(213) 974-3525

LOS ANGELES – A Long Beach Polytechnic High School football star was convicted of first-degree murder and other charges today in connection with a Culver City car-to-car shooting a year and a half ago.

The jury deliberated over two days before returning guilty verdicts against 19-year-old Jurray Willie Casey. Besides first-degree murder, Casey was convicted of one count of shooting at an occupied vehicle. The jury also found true gang-related firearm allegations.

Deputy District Attorney Hamid Towfigh said Casey faces three consecutive 25-year-to-life prison terms when he returns to court on Aug. 6 for sentencing by Superior Court Judge James R. Dabney. Dabney presided over the trial at the court's Airport Branch.

Casey and another young man were charged in January 2006 with the fatal shooting of 17-year-old Rashad Ali on Jan. 8, 2006. The case against Casey's co-defendant was dismissed prior to trial.

The defendant had been a star defensive end and linebacker for Poly High School. He and the former co-defendant, both 17 at the time, were in Culver City to attend a party. The shooting occurred when they were leaving.

Casey has remained in custody on \$2 million bail since his arrest on Jan. 9, 2006.

sg

Please read our [Privacy Policy](#).

© 1994-2012 Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office. All Rights Reserved.



Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

[Home](#)

[Crimes of Violence](#)

[Working With Communities](#)

[Fraud & Corruption](#)

[Search](#)

[Meet the D.A.](#)

[Top Documents](#)

[Victim Services](#)

[Consumer Alert](#)

[Bureau of Investigation](#)

[Criminal Justice Institute](#)

[Newsroom](#)

[Job Listings](#)

[Office Overview](#)

[History of the Office](#)

[Office Locations](#)

[Office Directory](#)

[FAQs](#)

[Board Correspondence](#)

[L.A. County Home Page](#)

[Contact Us](#)

Childcare Scam Busted

May 7, 2007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contacts: [Joe Scott](#), Director of Communications

[Sandi Gibbons](#), Public Information Officer

[Jane Robison](#), News Secretary

(213) 974-3525

LOS ANGELES – The ringleader of an alleged scheme that collected more than \$1.5 million in fraudulent government childcare payments is scheduled to be arraigned today following her arrest last week, the District Attorney's office announced today.

Sakina Johnson Myles allegedly led a ring of 19 people who falsely supplied employment records and billed state and federal agencies for childcare services never rendered. Myles, a former Los Angeles resident, was arrested at her Riverside County home on Thursday by investigators with the D.A.'s Bureau of Investigation.

She is scheduled to be arraigned sometime today at the Foltz Criminal Justice Center, Division 30, said Deputy District Attorney James Baker with the Welfare Fraud Division. She is charged in case No. BA317830 with multiple counts of grand theft and perjury.

District Attorney Steve Cooley commended D.A. investigators and investigators with the Department of Social Services for developing the case.

"After we exposed a fundamental problem with patrolling public benefit programs to the Civil Grand Jury in 2005, DPSS has taken action recommended in the Grand Jury report," Cooley said. "Those charged with dispensing public funds must take seriously their obligation to protect the public coffers from massive thefts."

Johnson, 38, allegedly claimed to operate the Johnson Family Daycare center at 438 E. 140th St. in Los Angeles, even though records show she stopped providing childcare at that location in April 2002, authorities said. However, she allegedly continued receiving government funding even though she no longer provided childcare services. As part of the scheme, she also allegedly provided phony employment records so parents could qualify for

childcare payments from the government's welfare-to-work program.

Baker said prosecutors expect the loss amount to be in the millions as the investigation continues and prosecutors file more cases.

jr

Please read our [Privacy Policy](#).

© 1994-2012 Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office. All Rights Reserved.



Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

[Home](#)

[Crimes of Violence](#)

[Working With Communities](#)

[Fraud & Corruption](#)

[Search](#)

[Meet the D.A.](#)

[Top Documents](#)

[Victim Services](#)

[Consumer Alert](#)

[Bureau of Investigation](#)

[Criminal Justice Institute](#)

[Newsroom](#)

[Job Listings](#)

[Office Overview](#)

[History of the Office](#)

[Office Locations](#)

[Office Directory](#)

[FAQs](#)

[Board Correspondence](#)

[L.A. County Home Page](#)

[Contact Us](#)

Remarks by Los Angeles County District Attorney Steve Cooley to the Board of Supervisors Budget Hearing – Board Hearing Room

May 9, 2007 - 2:30 P.M.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contacts: [Joe Scott](#), Director of Communications

[Sandi Gibbons](#), Public Information Officer

[Jane Robison](#), News Secretary

(213) 974-3525

When I took office in December 2000, the District Attorney's Office with 1,043 prosecutors was just recovering from the effects of the recessionary periods of the early 90s. 2001 began a difficult period of revenue losses and additional curtailments for virtually all levels of government. In my Department, that resulted in dramatic reductions in attorney staff, down to 890 prosecutors with similar reductions (15 percent) in investigators and support staff. Only in the last two years, have we experienced a change in this trend with the addition of 26 new attorney positions in FY 2005-06, ten positions in FY 2006-07 and nine new positions recommended for FY 2007-08. And, commencing in 2005, we have been able to hire.

During the four years of very difficult times and over the last two and a half years of much better times, my Office has demonstrated a high degree of fiscal responsibility. When necessary, we reorganized to increase operational effectiveness; we maintained a balanced budget; and we focused on maximizing revenue opportunities and resources by aggressively seeking alternative outside funding sources. These revenue sources, however, are for specialized prosecution programs. While they allow my office to respond to very specific public safety needs, they cannot and do not support the Department's core mission of prosecuting violent felonies and property crimes committed by both adults and juveniles. My Department must rely on General Funds for this purpose.

To that end, I have communicated what I consider to be my critical unmet needs to the CAO and to your offices through your Justice Deputies. I am also acutely aware that there are many competing priorities for a limited amount of discretionary funding. Accordingly, I have scrutinized the programs identified in my critical unmet needs package and have selected the top five

areas that I believe are of paramount importance to the District Attorney's Office in fulfilling its mission on behalf of the people we serve. They address a variety of issues from caseload and workload growth to existing unfunded programs. My number one priority that must be addressed is staffing for newly established courts.

Staffing For New Courts

My Department is required to provide appropriate staffing in each of the Los Angeles County criminal and juvenile courts. Five new courts have opened, in Alhambra, two in the Antelope Valley (one floating and one Juvenile), Compton, and Van Nuys. There has been no budget recognition for these new courts. This situation forces the Department to transfer staff from other work units to provide representation for the People. It negatively impacts other important operations.

Staffing needs for the new courts were first identified during FY 2006-07 Supplemental Budget Changes. When we were unsuccessful in securing additional resources at that time, we included a request for these positions in our FY 2007-08 Official Budget Request.

Although the Public Defender's budget includes new positions for caseload growth and new courts, no additional resources have been recommended for my Department for this obvious and demonstrable need despite the fact that felony filings have increased 21 percent since 2001.

I am again requesting budget recognition for 17 positions to staff five new courts.

Identity Theft

Last fiscal year, my office requested restoration of six previously curtailed positions for the High Technology Crime Identity Theft Unit. In Supplemental Budget changes, three positions were approved based on Supervisor Burke's sponsorship of a joint proposal submitted by the District Attorney's Office, the Sheriff and the Consumer Affairs Department. Although sufficient funds were not available to fully staff this burgeoning area of criminal activity, the three positions did afford the Department the opportunity to augment the newly formed High Technology Crime Division with additional prosecution support.

The mission of the High Tech Crime Division is the vertical prosecution of large, complex, high technology computer and electronic crimes and identity theft with special emphasis on cases involving organized criminal groups, widespread victimization, and significant economic loss. The Division also provides support for the investigation of these crimes, legislative advocacy in the fields of computer crime and identity theft, public outreach, and the education and training of allied professionals and law enforcement.

Today high tech crime and identity theft are universally acknowledged as the fastest growing form of fraud in the nation. It affects individuals from all socioeconomic backgrounds.

In 2006, there were 25,671 identity theft reports filed with LAPD, LASD and

independent law enforcement agencies. The FTC estimates that only 40 percent of all identity theft cases are reported and if this estimate is accurate, the actual number of identity thefts is more likely to be in the range of 65,000 countywide.

Several notable cases investigated and prosecuted by my office include *People v. Oluwatunji Oluwatosin*. The defendant and his co-conspirators gained access to personal data stored in the ChoicePoint data network. They were able to run 189,000 searches for personal identifying and financial information. The total losses here in Los Angeles County were determined to be in excess of \$6.5 million.

In *People v. Arutyunyan and Marutyan*, the defendants planted encoded card number skimming devices in AM/PM ARCO gas stations to record customers' debit card numbers and PIN numbers. This information was then used to make counterfeit debit cards allowing the defendants to make unauthorized withdrawals from the victims' bank accounts. Over 7,600 ATM transactions were attempted amounting to a documented loss of \$1.4 million.

In the case of *People v. Samvel Melkonyan and Tigran Ghalmukhyan*, the County was also seriously victimized just this past year by this organized crime group that engaged in a combination electronic crime to gain information about Los Angeles County employees receiving workers' compensation and then posing as diagnostic centers. Losses to insurance carriers for the County exceeded \$6.7 million. Money saved by the prompt investigation and prosecution amounted to \$5 million.

These cases are just a few of the cases prosecuted by my Office. My budget request for nine additional positions addresses the critical need for the highly specialized resources to investigate and prosecute the problem of personal identity theft and system intrusions resulting in the loss and compromise of personal information. We will investigate and prosecute these crimes and will save untold millions in lawsuits to individuals and entities.

Bureau of Investigation Captains

The District Attorney's Bureau of Investigation is one of the largest law enforcement agencies in Los Angeles County. It conducts some of the most unique, sensitive and complex criminal investigations often involving multi-jurisdictional coordination and/or high-profile raids in political corruption cases and probes into various types of specialized fraud. In the last ten years, the Bureau has grown by almost 40 percent, or 83, investigative positions with new and increased responsibilities including high tech crimes and code enforcement.

The Department's Bureau of Investigation is known nationally for its innovative investigative techniques and expertise in high tech forensics and surveillance operations. More importantly, the Bureau has maintained an excellent record in the appropriate execution of their duties. The Bureau's work is rapidly evolving, however, from its historic primary role as prosecution support to that of front line investigator, working with various state and federal task forces and assisting inspectors and other law enforcement agencies with code enforcement violations.

The Bureau is currently configured into four divisions each headed by a Captain (one is unfunded). We are requesting two Captain positions to correct this funding inequity and to realign the Bureau's organizational structure into five divisions based on the significant growth of investigative personnel and the complexity and risk involved in their investigations. Reducing the span of control is essential to ensure the appropriate level of supervision of staff, oversight of caseload, and risk management.

Lifer Hearings

Staff from the Lifer Hearings Division represent the People in all parole hearings resulting from cases in which a defendant received a life sentence with the possibility of parole. Cases prosecuted by the District Attorney's Office account for approximately 40 percent of lifer hearings statewide. These hearings are conducted at more than 30 state prison facilities throughout California.

The Lifer Hearings Division is presently managing over 13,000 life sentence cases and will predictably participate in approximately 2,700 parole hearings next fiscal year. Last year the Division was successful in 96.5 percent of the hearings ensuring that violent criminals, generally murderers, who were not suitable for parole were not paroled. This success was possible due to the high level expertise, extensive criminal legal knowledge, and senior level analyses of the attorneys assigned to the Division.

Without my Department's participation in these hearings, the Parole Board hears only one side of the story – that of the inmate and their attorney. This means inmates like the Manson family, four of whom are up for parole this year (including Charles Manson), Sirhan Sirhan and many others would have an opportunity to appeal to the Parole Board without a voice representing the People or the victims and next of kin of murdered victims.

The entire staff assigned to this Division are either retirees or have been borrowed from other work units. Although approximately 20 percent of the hearings involving Los Angeles County are held using video conferencing technology, travel to state prisons is still required for the remainder of the hearings due to State limitations and competition with other government agencies for video resources. Eighteen positions are required to staff this workload and ensure that violent criminals remain in state prison.

Join

The Juvenile Offender Intervention Network (JOIN) program is the winner of the Quality and Productivity Commission's highest award, the Golden Eagle Award. It was recognized for effectiveness in decreasing juvenile recidivism and saving taxpayers money by keeping juveniles out of the criminal justice system. JOIN targets non-violent, first-time youth offenders for diversion from the formal juvenile justice system into a program that provides swift intervention and accountability without encumbering juvenile court resources.

Last fiscal year, 1,283 juvenile court cases were diverted to JOIN with 952 – or 70 percent – graduating from the program. A recent study of 50 randomly selected graduates showed that 82 percent remained arrest free up to three years after completing JOIN. The county court cost avoidance attributed to

this diversion program was \$6.2 million in FY 2005-06 and is estimated to be \$6.1 million this fiscal year.

This highly successful, award-winning program is currently staffed with ten Hearing Officers, one per District Attorney juvenile office. We were recently successful in securing Justice Assistance Grant funds to pay for three of the ten positions; however, the remaining seven positions for this important diversion program remain unfunded.

Conclusion

I am here today to request that the Board provide \$9 million over and above the CAO's FY 2007-08 recommended budget for the District Attorney's Office in order to provide mandated staffing for new courts, increase the number of Captains in the Bureau of Investigation, expand staffing for identity theft, and provide the necessary funding to staff the Lifer Hearing and JOIN programs.

The District Attorney's Office has clearly demonstrated a genuine commitment to prudent business and fiscal management. We have provided more than sufficient justification to support our requests for additional funding. We have achieved outside revenue to the maximum extent possible. We have maintained a consistent net county cost to net appropriation ratio. Despite budget cuts, we have managed to implement award-winning, innovative programs with only a net position increase of 35 positions during my tenure.

As an elected official, I have a responsibility to my constituency to provide the best possible investigation and prosecution services to the citizens of Los Angeles County. I am asking that your Board support my office's effort by approving these requests.

cmh

Please read our [Privacy Policy](#).

© 1994-2012 Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office. All Rights Reserved.



Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

[Home](#)

[Crimes of Violence](#)

[Working With Communities](#)

[Fraud & Corruption](#)

[Search](#)

[Meet the D.A.](#)

[Top Documents](#)

[Victim Services](#)

[Consumer Alert](#)

[Bureau of Investigation](#)

[Criminal Justice Institute](#)

[Newsroom](#)

[Job Listings](#)

[Office Overview](#)

[History of the Office](#)

[Office Locations](#)

[Office Directory](#)

[FAQs](#)

[Board Correspondence](#)

[L.A. County Home Page](#)

[Contact Us](#)

Man Sentenced in Attack on Radio Reporter

May 11, 2007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contacts: [Joe Scott](#), Director of Communications

[Sandi Gibbons](#), Public Information Officer

[Jane Robison](#), News Secretary

(213) 974-3525

LOS ANGELES – A Boyle Heights man accused of attacking a KABC Radio reporter outside a Boyle Heights charter school was sentenced today, the District Attorney's office announced.

Ramon Flores, 32, was sentenced to 400 hours of Caltrans service and ordered to pay \$174 in restitution to reporter Sandy Wells by Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Michael Tynan. He also was placed on three years formal probation.

In exchange for his no contest plea to one count of robbery that he entered on Tuesday, prosecutors dropped the assault with a deadly weapon – an automobile – charge.

On June 1, 2006, Wells had gone to the Academia Semillas del Pueblo Charter School to interview an administrator. There had been news stories on KABC and in other media about the school, its programs and its education philosophies. Flores was dropping off a child at the school when he spotted the reporter. He allegedly chased Wells with the defendant's rather distinctive Dodge Magnum vehicle, forcing Wells to jump out of the way. Flores took a tape cassette out of the reporter's recorder during a confrontation on the street.

Flores was arrested on Sept. 21 by officers from the Los Angeles Police Department's Hollenbeck Division after one of the detectives working on the case saw a vehicle and driver matching the description of the attacker at the school.

jr

Please read our [Privacy Policy](#).

© 1994-2012 Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office. All Rights Reserved.



Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

[Home](#)

[Crimes of Violence](#)

[Working With Communities](#)

[Fraud & Corruption](#)

[Search](#)

[Meet the D.A.](#)

[Top Documents](#)

[Victim Services](#)

[Consumer Alert](#)

[Bureau of Investigation](#)

[Criminal Justice Institute](#)

[Newsroom](#)

[Job Listings](#)

[Office Overview](#)

[History of the Office](#)

[Office Locations](#)

[Office Directory](#)

[FAQs](#)

[Board Correspondence](#)

[L.A. County Home Page](#)

[Contact Us](#)

Anti-Gang Activist Pleads in Drug Possession Case

May 11, 2007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contacts: [Joe Scott](#), Director of Communications

[Sandi Gibbons](#), Public Information Officer

[Jane Robison](#), News Secretary

(213) 974-3525

SAN FERNANDO – The director of job development for Communities in Schools, one of the largest gang-intervention programs in the San Fernando Valley, pleaded no contest today to transportation of a controlled substance and felon in possession of a firearm, the District Attorney's office announced.

Mario Antonio Corona, 30, entered the plea before San Fernando Superior Court Judge Cynthia Ulfig, said Deputy District Attorney Jack Garden with the Hardcore Gang Division. Corona is scheduled to be sentenced to two years, eight months in state prison when he is sentenced May 25.

"Unfortunately the image Mario Corona was portraying of assisting troubled youth and gang members was not accurate," Garden said. "This plea today demonstrates he continued his criminal activity, including dealing in a significant amount of methamphetamine and possessing a gun."

Corona was arrested Feb. 28 in Sylmar by LAPD's Foothill Division Narcotics Unit as part of a larger investigation. Officers allegedly found nearly a pound of methamphetamine in his vehicle. Following his arrest, police searched his home and discovered a 9 mm handgun.

He was originally charged with transportation of a controlled substance and possession for sale of methamphetamine. The complaint was amended to add one count of felon in possession of a gun. In return for his plea, the possession for sale will be dismissed.

Corona, an admitted former gang member, was released and then re-arrested by federal authorities as an illegal immigrant. He is facing deportation after he serves his prison sentence, officials said.

jr

Please read our [Privacy Policy](#).

© 1994-2012 Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office. All Rights Reserved.



Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

Home

Crimes of Violence

Working With Communities

Fraud & Corruption

Search

Meet the D.A.

Top Documents

Victim Services

Consumer Alert

Bureau of Investigation

Criminal Justice Institute

Newsroom

Job Listings

Office Overview

History of the Office

Office Locations

Office Directory

FAQs

Board Correspondence

L.A. County Home Page

Contact Us

Attn: Assignment & News Editors Fugitive Alvaro Luna Jara Extradited

May 15, 2007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contacts: [Joe Scott](#), Director of Communications

[Sandi Gibbons](#), Public Information Officer

[Jane Robison](#), News Secretary

(213) 974-3525

At 2 p.m. today, District Attorney Steve Cooley will be joined by LAPD Chief William Bratton at a press conference to announce the return of Alvaro Luna Jara, a fugitive from Mexico charged with the 1998 murder of 12-year-old Steven Morales. The press conference will be held on the 18th Floor of the Foltz Criminal Justice Center, 210 W. Temple St.

The Morales family will be present to discuss Jara's return to Los Angeles.

jr

Please read our [Privacy Policy](#).

© 1994-2012 Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office. All Rights Reserved.



Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

Home

Crimes of Violence

Working With Communities

Fraud & Corruption

Search

Meet the D.A.

Top Documents

Victim Services

Consumer Alert

Bureau of Investigation

Criminal Justice Institute

Newsroom

Job Listings

Office Overview

History of the Office

Office Locations

Office Directory

FAQs

Board Correspondence

L.A. County Home Page

Contact Us

Third Fugitive Returned from Mexico to Face Murder Charge

May 15, 2007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contacts: [Joe Scott](#), Director of Communications

[Sandi Gibbons](#), Public Information Officer

[Jane Robison](#), News Secretary

(213) 974-3525

LOS ANGELES – District Attorney Steve Cooley announced today that the man charged with the 1998 murder of 12-year-old Steven Morales arrived in Los Angeles this morning from Mexico, making him the third fugitive charged with murder to be successfully extradited since November 2005.

Alvaro Luna Jara, 27, had been awaiting extradition to the U.S. since his June 22, 2006 arrest by U.S. Marshal's and Mexican authorities in Nayarit, Mexico.

"Our message to murder suspects – you can run, but you cannot hide across the border any longer," Cooley said during a news conference. "We will find you. We will extradite you. We will secure justice for your victims."

Cooley said the Los Angeles County D.A.'s office is entering a new era in the extradition process. The experience gained in successfully extraditing fugitives from Mexico is now being shared with many other law enforcement and prosecutorial agencies around California and the nation.

"We're providing training to law enforcement agencies all over the United States on how to locate and bring suspects back to the United States to stand trial," he said. "Our patience and persistence in working through the challenges presented by the Mexican Supreme Court have paid off for the families of victims awaiting justice in Los Angeles and elsewhere."

Steven Morales was shot and killed around 7:15 p.m. on Aug. 29, 1998, when he was playing with several other children in front of an apartment building in the 200 block of South Avenue 58. It was a drive-by shooting and the intended victims apparently were members of a rival street gang who were adjacent to where the children were playing.

Two to three rounds were fired at the Avenues gang members by Dogtown gang members near the children, authorities said. Steven was hit in the head and collapsed in the apartment building driveway. He died a day later. The Los Angeles Police Department investigated the case.

Prosecutors filed one count of murder and three counts of attempted murder against Jara, an admitted Dogtown gang member, about a week after the shooting. The defendant fled to Mexico.

Although he is a U.S. citizen, Mexican authorities twice refused to deport Jara in 2001 and again in 2004.

But after the Mexican Supreme Court reversed an earlier decision and ruled on Nov. 29, 2005 that criminal suspects facing life in prison sentences abroad can be extradited from Mexico for prosecution, the Los Angeles County D.A.'s office has aggressively sought to extradite murder suspects to back Los Angeles to stand trial.

jr

Please read our [Privacy Policy](#).

© 1994-2012 Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office. All Rights Reserved.



Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

Home

Crimes of Violence

Working With Communities

Fraud & Corruption

Search

Meet the D.A.

Top Documents

Victim Services

Consumer Alert

Bureau of Investigation

Criminal Justice Institute

Newsroom

Job Listings

Office Overview

History of the Office

Office Locations

Office Directory

FAQs

Board Correspondence

L.A. County Home Page

Contact Us

Couple Charged in Fatal Stabbing in Hollywood

May 16, 2007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contacts: [Joe Scott](#), Director of Communications

[Sandi Gibbons](#), Public Information Officer

[Jane Robison](#), News Secretary

(213) 974-3525

LOS ANGELES – A Los Angeles husband and wife suspected of fatally stabbing a 45-year-old man in a Hollywood parking lot Sunday were each charged today with murder, the District Attorney's office announced.

Michael Hermen (CQ) Sheridan, 25 (dob 9-26-81), and Angela Cherie Sheridan, 24 (dob 6-20-82), were charged in case No. BA322802, said Deputy District Attorney Deborah Passow. They are scheduled to be arraigned this afternoon in Division 30 at the Foltz Criminal Justice Center. They are each being held on \$1 million bail.

The couple allegedly got into an altercation with Roderick Poole in the parking lot of Mel's Diner in the 1600 block of Highland Avenue on Sunday after Angela Sheridan nearly hit the victim as she backed up her white Honda Civic. They exchanged words with the victim. Then both Michael and Angela Sheridan allegedly jumped out of the car and punched Poole.

Michael Sheridan is suspected of stabbing Poole. He is charged with the special allegation of using a deadly weapon, a knife, in commission of the murder.

jr

Please read our [Privacy Policy](#).

© 1994-2012 Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office. All Rights Reserved.



[Home](#)

[Crimes of Violence](#)

[Working With Communities](#)

[Fraud & Corruption](#)

[Search](#)

[Meet the D.A.](#)

[Top Documents](#)

[Victim Services](#)

[Consumer Alert](#)

[Bureau of Investigation](#)

[Criminal Justice Institute](#)

[Newsroom](#)

[Job Listings](#)

[Office Overview](#)

[History of the Office](#)

[Office Locations](#)

[Office Directory](#)

[FAQs](#)

[Board Correspondence](#)

[L.A. County Home Page](#)

[Contact Us](#)

Former "Prison Break" Actor Pleads Guilty in Fatal Car Crash

May 21, 2007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contacts: [Joe Scott](#), Director of Communications

[Sandi Gibbons](#), Public Information Officer

[Jane Robison](#), News Secretary

(213) 974-3525

BEVERLY HILLS – Actor Lane Garrison pleaded guilty today to vehicular manslaughter without gross negligence and other charges in connection with the Dec. 2, 2006, fatal car crash in Beverly Hills that left one of his three teenage passengers dead.

Garrison, who turns 27 on Wednesday, pleaded open to the charges, meaning it was not part of a negotiated settlement with the District Attorney's office. Beverly Hills Judge Elden Fox set sentencing for Aug. 2.

The actor also pleaded guilty to one felony count of driving under the influence causing injury to multiple victims and one misdemeanor count of furnishing alcohol to a minor. In addition, he admitted the allegations that he caused great bodily injury and death and that he was driving with a blood alcohol level of more than .15 percent. Deputy District Attorney Joseph Markus said a second DUI count will be dismissed at sentencing.

Garrison was driving his 2001 Land Rover when it hit a curb and struck a tree on South Beverly Drive near Olympic Boulevard. Vahagn Setian, 17, who riding in Garrison's 2001 Land Rover, was killed in the crash. The actor's two other passengers, 15-year-old girls, were injured in the crash shortly before midnight.

Garrison faces a possible maximum state prison term of six years and eight months.

Garrison appeared on the Fox television drama "Prison Break" last year.

jr

Please read our [Privacy Policy](#).

© 1994-2012 Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office. All Rights Reserved.



Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

Home

Crimes of Violence

Working With Communities

Fraud & Corruption

Search

Meet the D.A.

Top Documents

Victim Services

Consumer Alert

Bureau of Investigation

Criminal Justice Institute

Newsroom

Job Listings

Office Overview

History of the Office

Office Locations

Office Directory

FAQs

Board Correspondence

L.A. County Home Page

Contact Us

Attn: News & Assignment Editors Environmental Scholarship Awards

May 23, 2007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contacts: [Joe Scott](#), Director of Communications

[Sandi Gibbons](#), Public Information Officer

[Jane Robison](#), News Secretary

(213) 974-3525

District Attorney Steve Cooley will present environmental scholarships totaling \$10,750 to 13 students from five Los Angeles County high schools during the 15th annual Los Angeles County District Attorney Environmental Scholarship awards ceremony on Thursday, May 24th.

The 9 a.m. ceremony will be held at Schurr High School, 820 North Wilcox Ave., in Montebello.

Students from Schurr, Pioneer, Montebello, El Rancho and Bell Gardens high schools will receive awards. Since 1991, the District Attorney's Office has awarded more than 292 scholarships to local students totaling more than \$174,000. The program is funded by a nearly \$270,000 settlement in a criminal case against Grow Group, Inc.

CONTACT: Wayne Mack, (213) 974-7401.

jr

Please read our [Privacy Policy](#).

© 1994-2012 Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office. All Rights Reserved.



[Home](#)

[Crimes of Violence](#)

[Working With Communities](#)

[Fraud & Corruption](#)

[Search](#)

[Meet the D.A.](#)

[Top Documents](#)

[Victim Services](#)

[Consumer Alert](#)

[Bureau of Investigation](#)

[Criminal Justice Institute](#)

[Newsroom](#)

[Job Listings](#)

[Office Overview](#)

[History of the Office](#)

[Office Locations](#)

[Office Directory](#)

[FAQs](#)

[Board Correspondence](#)

[L.A. County Home Page](#)

[Contact Us](#)

School Police Officer Charged with Sexual Assault of a Woman During a Traffic Stop

May 23, 2007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contacts: [Joe Scott](#), Director of Communications

[Sandi Gibbons](#), Public Information Officer

[Jane Robison](#), News Secretary

(213) 974-3525

LOS ANGELES – A 34-year-old officer with the Los Angeles School Police Department was charged today with multiple counts of sexual assault by a police officer after he allegedly assaulted a young woman during a traffic stop, the District Attorney's office announced.

Ian King, (dob 4-5-73), was charged today with one count of sexual battery by restraint, two counts of penetration by public official and two counts of penetration by a foreign object in case No. BA323140, said Deputy District Attorney Renee Korn with the Justice System Integrity Division.

While in uniform and driving a police car, King allegedly stopped a 21-year-old female student about 12:30 a.m. on May 3 during a traffic stop near Adams and Redondo Boulevard. King allegedly told the woman she had made an illegal U-turn. During the stop, King allegedly sexually assaulted the woman after telling her he had to search her. She later called police to report the assault. A passing motorist also had called police after seeing an officer reaching under a female's skirt.

King was arrested later in the day on May 3 by LAPD following an investigation. He was released on \$250,000 bail.

King is scheduled to be arraigned after 8:30 a.m. Thursday in Division 30 at the Foltz Criminal Justice Center. If convicted, he faces up to 20 years in state prison.

jr

Please read our [Privacy Policy](#).

© 1994-2012 Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office. All Rights Reserved.



Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

[Home](#)

[Crimes of Violence](#)

[Working With Communities](#)

[Fraud & Corruption](#)

[Search](#)

[Meet the D.A.](#)

[Top Documents](#)

[Victim Services](#)

[Consumer Alert](#)

[Bureau of Investigation](#)

[Criminal Justice Institute](#)

[Newsroom](#)

[Job Listings](#)

[Office Overview](#)

[History of the Office](#)

[Office Locations](#)

[Office Directory](#)

[FAQs](#)

[Board Correspondence](#)

[L.A. County Home Page](#)

[Contact Us](#)

District Attorney Presents Environmental Scholarships

May 24, 2007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contacts: [Joe Scott](#), Director of Communications

[Sandi Gibbons](#), Public Information Officer

[Jane Robison](#), News Secretary

(213) 974-3525

MONTEBELLO – District Attorney Steve Cooley presented today environmental scholarships totaling \$10,750 to 13 students from five Los Angeles County high schools during the 15th annual Los Angeles County District Attorney Environmental Scholarship awards ceremony at Schurr High School in Montebello.

During the event, Cooley urged students to not only be aware of environmental problems, but to get involved.

“Become involved in a project with tangible and measurable results,” Cooley told the students. “Clean up a local park, organize a recycling drive, or develop a public information campaign about dumping motor oil in storm drains. There are so many projects you can lead to protect our environment. No matter what you do, your initiative will benefit you, your community, and beyond.”

Students from Schurr, Pioneer, Montebello, El Rancho and Bell Gardens high schools received awards. Since 1991, the District Attorney's Office has awarded more than 292 scholarships to local students totaling more than \$174,000. The program is funded by a nearly \$270,000 settlement in a criminal case against Grow Group, Inc.

Below are the students from each school receiving awards:

- **Pioneer High School:** Jasmin Andrade
- **El Rancho High School:** Genesis Gonzalez
- **Montebello High School:** Janderee Garcia, Aaron Ruvalcaba, Charlotte Cabeza
- **Bell Gardens High School:** Wendy Angel, Chrissy Bautista, Vivian Becerra, Emma Colmenares, Zandy Espinoza

• **Schurr High School:** Johana Lozano, Tammy Lee, Selene Solis

CONTACT: Wayne Mack, (213) 974-7401.

jr

Please read our [Privacy Policy](#).

© 1994-2012 Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office. All Rights Reserved.



Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

[Home](#)[Crimes of Violence](#)[Working With Communities](#)[Fraud & Corruption](#)[Search](#)[Meet the D.A.](#)[Top Documents](#)[Victim Services](#)[Consumer Alert](#)[Bureau of Investigation](#)[Criminal Justice Institute](#)[Newsroom](#)[Job Listings](#)[Office Overview](#)[History of the Office](#)[Office Locations](#)[Office Directory](#)[FAQs](#)[Board Correspondence](#)[L.A. County Home Page](#)[Contact Us](#)

Former Los Angeles City Commissioner Faces New Charge

May 31, 2007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contacts: [Joe Scott](#), Director of Communications

[Sandi Gibbons](#), Public Information Officer

[Jane Robison](#), News Secretary

(213) 974-3525

LOS ANGELES – Former Los Angeles City commissioner Leland Wong is facing a new criminal case today after D.A. investigators determined he allegedly voted on a contract for an LAX retail concession at the same time he was pursuing a business venture with the concession's owner, the District Attorney's office announced.

Deputy District Attorney Max Huntsman with the Public Integrity Division said one felony conflict of interest charge was filed today in a separate but related case. Wong was indicted last August on 20 counts of bribery, conflict of interest, embezzlement and other crimes investigated as part of a joint state-federal probe into allegations of "pay to play" by some officials in the administration of former Mayor James Hahn.

"Leland Wong abused the public's trust through a variety of "pay-to-play" schemes that our office continues to uncover," District Attorney Steve Cooley said. "We will aggressively investigate and prosecute these cases as part of my commitment to root out corruption in public institutions."

The latest charge stems from Wong's tenure as a Los Angeles World Airport Commissioner under the Hahn administration from October 2001 to March 2003. In December 2002, Wong voted on amendments to a contract held by W.H. Smith for retail concessions at LAX. At the same time, he allegedly was pursuing a business venture with W.H. Smith CEO Sean Anderson and Benny Klepach, a W.H. Smith subcontractor, to market duty free services in Asia using Wong's connections.

Huntsman said emails allegedly show Wong pursuing Anderson and Klepach to set up a deal while Wong was an airport commissioner. There is no evidence Anderson and Klepach did anything illegal.

Wong is scheduled to be arraigned Friday in case No. BA323471 after 8:30 a.m. in Division 30 at the Foltz Criminal Justice Center.

jr

Please read our [Privacy Policy](#).

© 1994-2012 Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office. All Rights Reserved.



Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

[Home](#)

[Crimes of Violence](#)

[Working With Communities](#)

[Fraud & Corruption](#)

[Search](#)

[Meet the D.A.](#)

[Top Documents](#)

[Victim Services](#)

[Consumer Alert](#)

[Bureau of Investigation](#)

[Criminal Justice Institute](#)

[Newsroom](#)

[Job Listings](#)

[Office Overview](#)

[History of the Office](#)

[Office Locations](#)

[Office Directory](#)

[FAQs](#)

[Board Correspondence](#)

[L.A. County Home Page](#)

[Contact Us](#)

Woman Named in Embezzlement Case Pleads Guilty to Perjury, Forgery

April 2, 2007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contacts: [Joe Scott](#), Director of Communications

[Sandi Gibbons](#), Public Information Officer

[Jane Robison](#), News Secretary

(213) 974-3525

LOS ANGELES – A woman who with a former attorney was charged last year in an embezzlement case involving conservatorships of estates and military victims pleaded guilty today to perjury and forgery.

Deputy District Attorney Christian Gullon of the Justice System Integrity Division said 73-year-old Anne L. Chavis is scheduled to return Los Angeles Superior Court on July 9 for sentencing. She entered the plea today before Judge David Horwitz.

Chavis and former attorney Charles Brian Smith, 59, were charged a year ago. Smith also was charged in a second case. Victims included military veterans too disabled to handle their own affairs.

Authorities said Chavis served as conservator for the veterans. The veterans were from the Army, Navy Marine Corps and Air Force. She also served as a special administrator for a probate estate that Smith represented.

Gullon said the two counts to which Chavis pleaded guilty involve actions in April and June 2002.

Smith pleaded guilty last year to multiple counts from both cases, including conspiracy, perjury, grand theft by embezzlement and theft from an elder. He was sentenced to three years, four months in state prison and ordered to pay \$750,187 in restitution.

sg

Please read our [Privacy Policy](#).

© 1994-2012 Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office. All Rights Reserved.



[Home](#)

[Crimes of Violence](#)

[Working With Communities](#)

[Fraud & Corruption](#)

[Search](#)

[Meet the D.A.](#)

[Top Documents](#)

[Victim Services](#)

[Consumer Alert](#)

[Bureau of Investigation](#)

[Criminal Justice Institute](#)

[Newsroom](#)

[Job Listings](#)

[Office Overview](#)

[History of the Office](#)

[Office Locations](#)

[Office Directory](#)

[FAQs](#)

[Board Correspondence](#)

[L.A. County Home Page](#)

[Contact Us](#)

Jury Recommends Death for Gang Member Convicted of Murdering Sheriff's Deputy

April 3, 2007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contacts: [Joe Scott](#), Director of Communications

[Sandi Gibbons](#), Public Information Officer

[Jane Robison](#), News Secretary

(213) 974-3525

NORWALK – A Norwalk Superior Court jury recommended today that a Hawaiian Gardens gang member be sentenced to death for murdering Sheriff's Deputy Luis Gerardo (Jerry) Ortiz outside an apartment during an investigation into a 2005 shooting.

"This is the kind of person and the kind of crime that the death penalty was made for," said District Attorney Steve Cooley

Jurors deliberated a day before recommending that 29-year-old Jose Luis Orozco be executed. Formal sentencing was scheduled for May 3 before trial judge Philip Hickok.

The same jury on March 20 convicted Orozco of the first-degree murder of the Sheriff's gang enforcement deputy, who was gunned down on June 24, 2005. The jury found true the special circumstances of murder of a peace officer intentionally killed while performing his duties, murder to avoid arrest, street gang murder and lying in wait. He also was convicted of attempted murder, possession of a firearm by a felon and all allegations that the defendant personally used a handgun to commit the crimes.

Deputy Ortiz was investigating a June 20, 2005, Hawaiian Gardens shooting in which Orozco was a suspect. He spotted the defendant about 3 p.m. on June 24, 2005, and chased him to the apartment complex in the 12000 block of East 223rd Street. Orozco ran into an apartment and hid behind the door. When the deputy came to the door, Orozco shot him, and then fled. Deputy Ortiz, with the Sheriff's Safe Streets Bureau, was 35 years old.

Orozco was arrested five buildings away on 223rd Street shortly before midnight. A .38-caliber revolver was recovered. He has remained in custody without bail since then.

The shooting that Deputy Ortiz was investigating was of a man who was shot in the back while doing yard work at a home in the 22000 block of Joliet Avenue in Hawaiian Gardens. The victim survived and the jury convicted him of the attempted murder.

Deputy District Attorneys Lowell Anger and Phillip Stirling of the Crimes Against Peace Officers Section (CAPOS) prosecuted the case.

sg

Please read our [Privacy Policy](#).

© 1994-2012 Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office. All Rights Reserved.



Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

[Home](#)

[Crimes of Violence](#)

[Working With Communities](#)

[Fraud & Corruption](#)

[Search](#)

[Meet the D.A.](#)

[Top Documents](#)

[Victim Services](#)

[Consumer Alert](#)

[Bureau of Investigation](#)

[Criminal Justice Institute](#)

[Newsroom](#)

[Job Listings](#)

[Office Overview](#)

[History of the Office](#)

[Office Locations](#)

[Office Directory](#)

[FAQs](#)

[Board Correspondence](#)

[L.A. County Home Page](#)

[Contact Us](#)

Man Charged with Gross Vehicular Manslaughter in Fatal PCH Collision

April 6, 2007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contacts: [Joe Scott](#), Director of Communications

[Sandi Gibbons](#), Public Information Officer

[Jane Robison](#), News Secretary

(213) 974-3525

LOS ANGELES – A 24-year-old man suspected of causing Wednesday's fatal crash that killed a well-known film director and his son was charged today with two counts of gross vehicular manslaughter while intoxicated, the District Attorney's office announced.

Hector Manuel Velazquez Nava, (dob 10-9-82), is scheduled to be arraigned sometime after 1:30 p.m. at Airport Superior Court, Dept. 144. He is charged in case No. SA063651.

Velazquez-Nava allegedly was driving a GMC Yukon when it hit a 1997 Infiniti driven by film director Robert Clark, 67. Clark and his son, Ariel Hanrath-Clark, 22, were both killed. The accident occurred about 2:20 a.m. on PCH between Sunset Boulevard and Temescal Canyon Road.

Velazquez-Nava and a passenger in his vehicle were both treated for injuries and released from the hospital.

jr

Please read our [Privacy Policy](#).

© 1994-2012 Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office. All Rights Reserved.



Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

Home

Crimes of Violence

Working With Communities

Fraud & Corruption

Search

Meet the D.A.

Top Documents

Victim Services

Consumer Alert

Bureau of Investigation

Criminal Justice Institute

Newsroom

Job Listings

Office Overview

History of the Office

Office Locations

Office Directory

FAQs

Board Correspondence

L.A. County Home Page

Contact Us

Snoop Dogg Charged with Gun Possession

April 10, 2007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contacts: [Joe Scott](#), Director of Communications

[Sandi Gibbons](#), Public Information Officer

[Jane Robison](#), News Secretary

(213) 974-3525

PASADENA – The rapper known as Snoop Dogg was charged today with gun possession by a felon and sale or transportation of marijuana, both felonies, the District Attorney's office announced.

The 35-year-old musician, whose real name is Cordozar Calvin Broadus, (dob 10-20-71), is scheduled to be arraigned at 10 a.m. Wednesday in Pasadena Superior Court, Dept. D, said Deputy District Attorney Marian Thompson. He is charged in case No. GA069334.

Broadus was first arrested Oct. 26 Burbank police at the airport in Burbank on suspicion of transportation of a controlled substance. The gun charge stems from Burbank police executing a search warrant at his home where the gun was allegedly discovered.

The complaint alleges that Broadus was convicted of felony drug possession and possession for sale in 1990.

If convicted, he faces up to four years in state prison.

jr

Please read our [Privacy Policy](#).

© 1994-2012 Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office. All Rights Reserved.



Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

[Home](#)

[Crimes of Violence](#)

[Working With Communities](#)

[Fraud & Corruption](#)

[Search](#)

[Meet the D.A.](#)

[Top Documents](#)

[Victim Services](#)

[Consumer Alert](#)

[Bureau of Investigation](#)

[Criminal Justice Institute](#)

[Newsroom](#)

[Job Listings](#)

[Office Overview](#)

[History of the Office](#)

[Office Locations](#)

[Office Directory](#)

[FAQs](#)

[Board Correspondence](#)

[L.A. County Home Page](#)

[Contact Us](#)

LAPD Detective Accused of Workers Compensation Fraud

April 10, 2007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contacts: [Joe Scott](#), Director of Communications

[Sandi Gibbons](#), Public Information Officer

[Jane Robison](#), News Secretary

(213) 974-3525

LOS ANGELES – A Los Angeles police detective has been charged with insurance fraud and attempted perjury for allegedly working for a private security firm while collecting Injured-On-Duty (IOD) pay from the Los Angeles Police Department, the District Attorney's office announced today.

A felony complaint for arrest warrant against 37-year-old Gilbert Barrow (dob 11-3-1969) was filed yesterday by Deputy District Attorney Renee Korn of the Justice System Integrity Division. The LAPD announced that Barrow was arrested today.

Barrow was charged in case No. BA320757 with one count each of insurance fraud and attempted perjury under oath. Bail was recommended at \$30,000. Korn said that if convicted, Barrow faces a possible maximum state prison term of five years.

The prosecutor said arraignment for the defendant has been scheduled for June 11 in Division 30 of Los Angeles Superior Court.

The complaint stated the insurance fraud occurred between Sept. 26, 2005, and April 11, 2006. It stated the attempted perjury occurred on Jan. 31, 2006.

Korn said Barrow, a 12-year LAPD veteran who worked out of the Rampart Station, was employed by a security company in 2005 and 2006 while he was off work and being paid on an IOD status.

sg

Please read our [Privacy Policy](#).

© 1994-2012 Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office. All Rights Reserved.



[Home](#)

[Crimes of Violence](#)

[Working With Communities](#)

[Fraud & Corruption](#)

[Search](#)

[Meet the D.A.](#)

[Top Documents](#)

[Victim Services](#)

[Consumer Alert](#)

[Bureau of Investigation](#)

[Criminal Justice Institute](#)

[Newsroom](#)

[Job Listings](#)

[Office Overview](#)

[History of the Office](#)

[Office Locations](#)

[Office Directory](#)

[FAQs](#)

[Board Correspondence](#)

[L.A. County Home Page](#)

[Contact Us](#)

Snoop Dogg Pleads No Contest to Felony Charges; Sentenced

April 11, 2007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contacts: [Joe Scott](#), Director of Communications

[Sandi Gibbons](#), Public Information Officer

[Jane Robison](#), News Secretary

(213) 974-3525

PASADENA – Rapper Snoop Dogg pleaded no contest today to felony charges of gun possession by a felon and sale and transportation of marijuana. He was sentenced immediately by Pasadena Superior Court Judge Terry Smerling.

The 35-year-old entertainer, whose real name is Cordozar Calvin Broadus, entered the plea at his arraignment. The case was filed against him yesterday. The plea was the result of a negotiated settlement.

Deputy District Attorney Marian Thompson outlined the plea prior to it actually being taken by Judge Smerling. Broadus was sentenced to three years state prison, but the term was suspended. He was placed on five years probation with the understanding that if he violates probation, he will be sentenced to three years in state prison.

Broadus also is to do 800 hours of community service. Only half of that – 400 hours – can be the time he already volunteers with his youth football league. In addition, restrictions were placed on people in the rapper's employ as well as his entourage. He cannot employ anyone in a security or driving capacity who has a criminal record or is gang-affiliated.

He also must employ California-licensed security personnel. They must be licensed to carry firearms if they are armed.

Defense attorney Donald Etra told reporters outside of court that all of the rapper's staff and entourage will be "completely vetted."

Broadus, wearing a black fur-lined leather jacket, black jeans and a tee-shirt, answered only, "Yes, sir," or "No, sir," when the judge inquired about the plea agreement. When asked his plea to each count, the defendant replied, "No

contest.”

He did not meet with reporters after the court session. His attorney said he had a prior commitment.

Broadus was first arrested Oct. 26 at Burbank Airport. Thompson said he had 39.14 grams of marijuana – some of it in individual canisters – at the time of this arrest. A search warrant served at his home in the Diamond Bar in November turned up a semi-automatic handgun, she said.

Two prior felony convictions – drugs in 1990 and possession of a firearm by a convicted felon in 1997 – were admitted by Broadus as part of the plea agreement.

The rapper also waived his appellate rights and agreed to comply with the Compassionate Use Act of 1996 that allows possession of a certain amount of marijuana for medicinal purposes. His attorney said in court that Broadus has a medical certificate to use marijuana. Outside court, he told reporters it was for migraines.

sg

Please read our [Privacy Policy](#).

© 1994-2012 Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office. All Rights Reserved.



[Home](#)

[Crimes of Violence](#)

[Working With Communities](#)

[Fraud & Corruption](#)

[Search](#)

[Meet the D.A.](#)

[Top Documents](#)

[Victim Services](#)

[Consumer Alert](#)

[Bureau of Investigation](#)

[Criminal Justice Institute](#)

[Newsroom](#)

[Job Listings](#)

[Office Overview](#)

[History of the Office](#)

[Office Locations](#)

[Office Directory](#)

[FAQs](#)

[Board Correspondence](#)

[L.A. County Home Page](#)

[Contact Us](#)

Part-Time Prep School Employee Pleads Guilty to Child Molestation

April 12, 2007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contacts: [Joe Scott](#), Director of Communications

[Sandi Gibbons](#), Public Information Officer

[Jane Robison](#), News Secretary

(213) 974-3525

PASADENA – A part-time worker at Rio Hondo Prep School in Arcadia pleaded guilty today to molesting nine boys and attempting to molest a 10th child in 2005.

Deputy District Attorney Natalie Adomian said 21-year-old Jonathan Robert Poyner entered the plea before Pasadena Superior Court Judge Leslie E. Brown. Sentencing was scheduled for April 26, which had been the scheduled trial date for Poyner.

Adomian said Poyner will be sentenced to 17 years in state prison as part of a negotiated settlement of the case prior to trial.

The prosecutor said Poyner pleaded guilty to eight counts of lewd act upon a child, one count of forcible lewd act upon a child and one count of attempted lewd act upon a child. The crimes occurred between June and December 2005 during sporting events, camping trials and other school activities. Authorities said the victims were 13 years old at the time.

Poyner, who lived in Glendora, was arrested on Dec. 13, 2005. The felony case was filed against him two days later. He has remains in custody on \$1 million bond.

Authorities said the defendant was a part-time employee who also did voluntary work at the school.

sg

Please read our [Privacy Policy](#).

© 1994-2012 Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office. All Rights Reserved.



Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

[Home](#)

[Crimes of Violence](#)

[Working With Communities](#)

[Fraud & Corruption](#)

[Search](#)

[Meet the D.A.](#)

[Top Documents](#)

[Victim Services](#)

[Consumer Alert](#)

[Bureau of Investigation](#)

[Criminal Justice Institute](#)

[Newsroom](#)

[Job Listings](#)

[Office Overview](#)

[History of the Office](#)

[Office Locations](#)

[Office Directory](#)

[FAQs](#)

[Board Correspondence](#)

[L.A. County Home Page](#)

[Contact Us](#)

Current and Former Lynwood Council Members Charged with Misappropriating More than \$100,000 in Taxpayer Money

April 12, 2007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contacts: [Joe Scott](#), Director of Communications

[Sandi Gibbons](#), Public Information Officer

[Jane Robison](#), News Secretary

(213) 974-3525

COMPTON – Two current and three former Lynwood City Council members are scheduled to be arraigned Friday on charges they were fraudulently paid to attend city committee meetings and that they allegedly charged personal expenses to city credit cards, the District Attorney's office announced.

The D.A.'s Public Integrity Division discovered the alleged crimes through a four-year investigation launched on April 15, 2003 following a tip by a former Lynwood city manager.

"This case is another example of PID aggressively investigating and prosecuting schemes for self-enrichment by elected officials at the expense of hardworking taxpayers," Dist. Atty. Steve Cooley said.

Charged in the criminal complaint are Lynwood Council members Louis Byrd and Fernando Pedroza and former members Armando Rea, Arturo Reyes and Ricardo Sanchez, said Deputy District Attorney Gary Nielsen with PID. All five are scheduled to surrender and be arraigned at 9 a.m. Friday in Compton Superior Court, Dept. D. They are charged in case No. TA090186 with one count each of misappropriation of public funds.

According to the complaint, the five council members each allegedly collected thousands of dollars by misappropriating public money under several different schemes, including charging personal expenses on city credit cards. For example, during a May 2002 trip to Guadalajara, Mexico to attend a sister-city conference, Pedroza, 41, charged \$1,500 on a city credit card to pay for an evening at a gentleman's club that included a dancer and private room.

But by far the largest amount of misappropriated money allegedly went to council members who paid themselves \$450 per meeting per agency for their

participation on two city agencies, the Lynwood Public Finance Authority and Lynwood Information Inc. The LPFA issues bonds for the city and the Lynwood Redevelopment Agency, and Lynwood Information Inc. was created in 1981 to keep residents informed through a newsletter, Nielsen said.

At the peak in 2000 and 2001, council members were earning up to \$40,000 annually in addition to their council pay from both LPFA and LII meetings, which translates to about 80 to 90 meetings annually. This compares to city council salaries that are limited by state law to about \$10,000 annually.

Nielsen said the Government Code section 36516 controls the salary for city council members in general law cities. The work council members performed in connection with these agencies was nothing beyond the normal responsibilities for a council member.

Byrd and Pedroza are current members. Rea and Sanchez left the council at the end of 2001 and Reyes left at the end of 2003.

If convicted, the defendants face up to six years in state prison.

jr

Please read our [Privacy Policy](#).

© 1994-2012 Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office. All Rights Reserved.



Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

Home

Crimes of Violence

Working With Communities

Fraud & Corruption

Search

Meet the D.A.

Top Documents

Victim Services

Consumer Alert

Bureau of Investigation

Criminal Justice Institute

Newsroom

Job Listings

Office Overview

History of the Office

Office Locations

Office Directory

FAQs

Board Correspondence

L.A. County Home Page

Contact Us

Bus Driver Charged in Alleged Sexual Assault

April 17, 2007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contacts: [Joe Scott](#), Director of Communications

[Sandi Gibbons](#), Public Information Officer

[Jane Robison](#), News Secretary

(213) 974-3525

POMONA -- A 34-year-old bus driver for Foothill Transit was arraigned today on charges of falsely imprisoning and sexually battering a 17-year-old female passenger, the District Attorney's office announced.

Marco Antonio Diaz, (dob 12-01-72), is scheduled to return to Pomona Superior Court for a preliminary hearing setting May 2.

Diaz is charged in No. KA078805 with one count of assault with intent to commit a felony and one count of false imprisonment by violence. He was arrested by the Glendora Police Department on April 14. He is being held on \$120,000 bail.

Diaz assaulted one of his female passengers, who boarded a Foothill bus in Covina. At the time, all other passengers had exited the bus.

The bus driver drove the victim to a bus stop in the area of Citrus College and refused to let the victim off. He allegedly assaulted the victim then freed her when she accepted the bus driver's phone number, police said.

The case was filed by Deputy District Attorney Samer Hathout of the Pomona office.

Diaz, of Pomona, faces a maximum sentence of six years in state prison if convicted of the felony charges filed against him.

la

Please read our [Privacy Policy](#).



[Home](#)

[Crimes of Violence](#)

[Working With Communities](#)

[Fraud & Corruption](#)

[Search](#)

[Meet the D.A.](#)

[Top Documents](#)

[Victim Services](#)

[Consumer Alert](#)

[Bureau of Investigation](#)

[Criminal Justice Institute](#)

[Newsroom](#)

[Job Listings](#)

[Office Overview](#)

[History of the Office](#)

[Office Locations](#)

[Office Directory](#)

[FAQs](#)

[Board Correspondence](#)

[L.A. County Home Page](#)

[Contact Us](#)

Long Beach Man Charged with Murdering 2-Year-Old Boy

April 18, 2007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contacts: [Joe Scott](#), Director of Communications

[Sandi Gibbons](#), Public Information Officer

[Jane Robison](#), News Secretary

(213) 974-3525

LONG BEACH – Murder and other felony charges were filed today against a 24-year-old Long Beach man charged with fatally beating his girlfriend's 2-year-old son, the District Attorney's office announced.

Deputy District Attorney Mary Suzukawa, who filed the case, said Genaro Salas Blanco Jr. is scheduled to appear this afternoon for arraignment in Department J of Long Beach Superior Court.

Blanco is charged with one count each of murder, assault on a child causing death and torture in the April 16 fatal beating of the victim, identified in the complaint only as "Anthony R." Bail was recommended at \$1.15 million.

The defendant was arrested by Long Beach police Monday morning after paramedics responded to a call at an apartment complex in the 1400 block of Magnolia Avenue.

The toddler was rushed to St. Mary Medical Center in Long Beach, but died a short time after arriving, authorities said. Authorities said the child had been punched repeatedly after he reportedly wet himself.

Blanco has remained in custody since this arrest on Monday. If convicted, he faces a potential maximum state prison sentence of life with the possibility of parole.

sg

Please read our [Privacy Policy](#).



Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

[Home](#)

[Crimes of Violence](#)

[Working With Communities](#)

[Fraud & Corruption](#)

[Search](#)

[Meet the D.A.](#)

[Top Documents](#)

[Victim Services](#)

[Consumer Alert](#)

[Bureau of Investigation](#)

[Criminal Justice Institute](#)

[Newsroom](#)

[Job Listings](#)

[Office Overview](#)

[History of the Office](#)

[Office Locations](#)

[Office Directory](#)

[FAQs](#)

[Board Correspondence](#)

[L.A. County Home Page](#)

[Contact Us](#)

Gang Member Sentenced to Life Term for Murdering Iraqi War Veteran

April 19, 2007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contacts: [Joe Scott](#), Director of Communications

[Sandi Gibbons](#), Public Information Officer

[Jane Robison](#), News Secretary

(213) 974-3525

COMPTON – A gang member convicted of murdering an Iraqi War veteran and trying to kill the victim's wife, unborn child and brother was sentenced today to a life prison term, the District Attorney's office announced.

Deputy District Attorney Andrew Kim of the Hardcore Gang Division said Raul Damian Martinez, 24, was sentenced by Compton Superior Court Judge David Sotelo to 155 years to life plus 17 years.

A jury convicted Martinez of first-degree murder and attempted murder on March 19. The jurors found that not only did Martinez personally use a firearm to commit the crimes, the attack on 20-year-old Osiel Hipolito and his family was "for the benefit of, at the direction of, and in association with a criminal street gang."

Hipolito was shot and killed Sept. 3, 2005, when he, his pregnant wife and his teenaged brother were at a swap meet near Compton. Gang members accosted the young sailor, a former Sheriff's Explorer Scot who had served one tour of duty in Iraq and was due for a second Persian Gulf tour in 2006.

He was shot dead while trying to defend himself and his family. His wife, their unborn daughter and his brother all were wounded. The baby was born with a bullet wound in her leg at a local hospital where the victims were taken after the shooting.

Martinez was arrested in the Moreno Valley in Riverside County, where he lived, a few days after the shooting. He has remained in custody since then.

sg

Please read our [Privacy Policy](#).

© 1994-2012 Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office. All Rights Reserved.



Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

[Home](#)[Crimes of Violence](#)[Working With Communities](#)[Fraud & Corruption](#)[Search](#)[Meet the D.A.](#)[Top Documents](#)[Victim Services](#)[Consumer Alert](#)[Bureau of Investigation](#)[Criminal Justice Institute](#)[Newsroom](#)[Job Listings](#)[Office Overview](#)[History of the Office](#)[Office Locations](#)[Office Directory](#)[FAQs](#)[Board Correspondence](#)[L.A. County Home Page](#)[Contact Us](#)

Parolee Sentenced to Life in Prison for Beverly Hills Murder, Attempted Murder

April 20, 2007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contacts: [Joe Scott](#), Director of Communications

[Sandi Gibbons](#), Public Information Officer

[Jane Robison](#), News Secretary

(213) 974-3525

BEVERLY HILLS – A parolee convicted of murdering a painting contractor and trying to kill the man's partner in Beverly Hills in late 2005 was given two life prison terms today by the Superior Court judge who presented over the trial.

Deputy District Attorney Joseph Markus said 51-year-old Nathan Lee Hall was sentenced by Judge Elden Fox to two consecutive life sentences plus five years. Hall was convicted by a jury on Feb. 27 of one count of second-degree murder with the use of a knife and one count of first-degree attempted murder with the use of a knife. The jury also found true numerous prior felony convictions that had been listed in the criminal charges filed on Jan. 31, 2006.

Jurgen Hapke, 65, of Burbank was fatally stabbed on Dec. 14, 2005, while he and his partner, Helmut Mende, were painting the exterior of a Wells Fargo Bank on Wilshire Boulevard in Beverly Hills. Mende survived the attack.

It was the first murder in Beverly Hills in four years.

Hall, who lived in Los Angeles, was arrested shortly after the murder. He has remained in custody without bail.

sg

Please read our [Privacy Policy](#).

© 1994-2012 Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office. All Rights Reserved.



Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

[Home](#)

[Crimes of Violence](#)

[Working With Communities](#)

[Fraud & Corruption](#)

[Search](#)

[Meet the D.A.](#)

[Top Documents](#)

[Victim Services](#)

[Consumer Alert](#)

[Bureau of Investigation](#)

[Criminal Justice Institute](#)

[Newsroom](#)

[Job Listings](#)

[Office Overview](#)

[History of the Office](#)

[Office Locations](#)

[Office Directory](#)

[FAQs](#)

[Board Correspondence](#)

[L.A. County Home Page](#)

[Contact Us](#)

Former City of Los Angeles Workers Charged in Alleged Illegal Dumping Scheme

April 20, 2007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contacts: [Joe Scott](#), Director of Communications

[Sandi Gibbons](#), Public Information Officer

[Jane Robison](#), News Secretary

(213) 974-3525

LOS ANGELES – Three former City of Los Angeles employees and a man who worked for the city part time as part of a welfare program were charged today with conspiracy, embezzlement and grand theft for allegedly allowing illegal dumping at a city yard and collecting money from truck drivers who brought their debris there.

Deputy District Attorney Sandi Roth of the Public Integrity Division said the four men are scheduled to appear for arraignment on May 17 in Los Angeles Superior Court Division 30. None are in custody and all are expected to surrender at that time.

The four are charged in case No. BA 317432 with one count each of conspiracy to commit dumping in commercial quality, a violation of Penal Code Section 374.3(h)(1); embezzlement by a public or private officer (PC 405); and grand theft of labor (PC 487(a)). If convicted, each faces a possible maximum penalty of three years and eight months in state prison.

Roth said the case was investigated by the Los Angeles Police Department's Commercial Crimes Division after a tip that there was illegal dumping at the city-owned-and-operated Southwest Transfer Station, 5860 Wilton St. City street sweepers and trucks that pick up debris drop their loads at the station. The loads are transferred to a dumpsite.

She said neither city sanitation trucks nor the public can use the lot, which is closed and locked daily at 3:30 p.m.

An undercover surveillance of after-hours activities at the lot was set up by the LAPD after receiving a tip from the City Ethics Commission.

The complaint alleged that the crimes occurred between Feb. 1 and July 27, 2005. Authorities said trucks using the dumping site after hours paid \$80 to \$100 each to deposit their load at the site.

Named in the complaint were Michael Crawford, 42 (dob 2-9-1965), of Fontana; Adebola Kannike, 46 (dob 8-3-1960) of Norwalk; Jose Sanchez, 52 (dob 2-19-1955) of La Puente; and Arthur Barton, 59 (dob 8-26-1947), of Los Angeles. Crawford and Kannike worked for the city at the time of the alleged crimes, Sanchez was a former city employee and Barton worked at the lot part time as part of a welfare program.

sg

Please read our [Privacy Policy](#).

© 1994-2012 Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office. All Rights Reserved.



Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

[Home](#)

[Crimes of Violence](#)

[Working With Communities](#)

[Fraud & Corruption](#)

[Search](#)

[Meet the D.A.](#)

[Top Documents](#)

[Victim Services](#)

[Consumer Alert](#)

[Bureau of Investigation](#)

[Criminal Justice Institute](#)

[Newsroom](#)

[Job Listings](#)

[Office Overview](#)

[History of the Office](#)

[Office Locations](#)

[Office Directory](#)

[FAQs](#)

[Board Correspondence](#)

[L.A. County Home Page](#)

[Contact Us](#)

Three Reputed Gang Members Charged With Murder In Fatal Shooting of Three South Los Angeles Residents

April 23, 2007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contacts: [Joe Scott](#), Director of Communications

[Sandi Gibbons](#), Public Information Officer

[Jane Robison](#), News Secretary

(213) 974-3525

LOS ANGELES – Three reputed “Rolling 30’s” gang members were charged today with three counts each of capital murder in connection with last year’s fatal shooting of three South Los Angeles residents, including two boys, the District Attorney’s office said today.

Deputy District Attorney Phil Glaviano with the Hardcore Gang Division said the three allegedly were looking for rival gang members when they shot up a neighborhood, firing more than 30 rounds from two AK-47 assault rifles. The shootings occurred about 4:30 p.m. on June 30, 2006 in the 1100 block of East 49th Street.

Fatally shot were David Marcial, 10; his 22-year-old uncle, Larry Marcial; and a neighbor, Luis Cervantes, 17. David's brother, Sergio Marcial Jr., 12, was wounded and survived.

Charged in case No. BA321481 are Ryan T. Moore, 33 (dob 8-3-73) and Lawrence William Island Jr., 24 (dob 11-9-82). Moore and Island are scheduled to be arraigned this afternoon at the Foltz Criminal Justice Center, Division 30. An arrest warrant was issued for a third defendant. LAPD investigated the case.

The three are charged with three counts each of murder, with the special circumstance of multiple murder and murder to further a gang, and one count each of attempted premeditated murder. A decision on whether to seek the death penalty will be made by prosecutors at a later date.

Glaviano said none of the victims was involved in gangs.

jr

Please read our [Privacy Policy](#).

© 1994-2012 Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office. All Rights Reserved.



Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

Home

Crimes of Violence

Working With Communities

Fraud & Corruption

Search

Meet the D.A.

Top Documents

Victim Services

Consumer Alert

Bureau of Investigation

Criminal Justice Institute

Newsroom

Job Listings

Office Overview

History of the Office

Office Locations

Office Directory

FAQs

Board Correspondence

L.A. County Home Page

Contact Us

Criminal Threat, Assault With Firearm Charges Filed Against USC Student

April 24, 2007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contacts: [Joe Scott](#), Director of Communications

[Sandi Gibbons](#), Public Information Officer

[Jane Robison](#), News Secretary

(213) 974-3525

LOS ANGELES – A 19-year-old USC student was charged today with making criminal threats against two people and assaulting two others with a firearm, the District Attorney's office announced.

Zao Xing Yang (dob 10-20-1987) was charged in case No. BA 321580 with two counts each of making criminal threats on April 22 and two counts of assault with a firearm, also on April 22. The complaint alleged the defendant personally used a handgun in commission of the crimes.

Yang, who was arrested by Los Angeles police on Sunday, the day the alleged crimes occurred, is scheduled to appear for arraignment in Los Angeles Superior Court Division 30 after 1:30 p.m. today.

Deputy District Attorney Samuel Dordulian of the Target Crimes Division requested that bail be set at \$5 million for the defendant. If convicted, the defendant faces a maximum of 18 years in state prison.

Authorities said Yang lives off campus. The alleged crimes occurred at a party, authorities said.

sg

Please read our [Privacy Policy](#).

© 1994-2012 Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office. All Rights Reserved.



Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

[Home](#)

[Crimes of Violence](#)

[Working With Communities](#)

[Fraud & Corruption](#)

[Search](#)

[Meet the D.A.](#)

[Top Documents](#)

[Victim Services](#)

[Consumer Alert](#)

[Bureau of Investigation](#)

[Criminal Justice Institute](#)

[Newsroom](#)

[Job Listings](#)

[Office Overview](#)

[History of the Office](#)

[Office Locations](#)

[Office Directory](#)

[FAQs](#)

[Board Correspondence](#)

[L.A. County Home Page](#)

[Contact Us](#)

Chester Turner Convicted of Serial Murders of 10 Women, One Fetus

April 30, 2007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contacts: [Joe Scott](#), Director of Communications

[Sandi Gibbons](#), Public Information Officer

[Jane Robison](#), News Secretary

(213) 974-3525

LOS ANGELES – Chester Dewayne Turner, a convicted rapist, was found guilty by a jury today of the serial murders of 10 women and an unborn child, all killed in South and Downtown Los Angeles over a 10-year period starting in 1987.

The jury found true the special circumstances of rape murder and multiple murder. Deputy District Attorneys Bobby Grace and Truc Do are seeking the death penalty against the 40-year-old defendant.

“The jury has reached an accurate and appropriate verdict during the guilt phase,” said District Attorney Steve Cooley. “We will await the jury’s verdict after the penalty phase.”

The penalty phase of the trial starts on Wednesday morning before Los Angeles Superior Court Judge William R. Pounders. The six men and six women who deliberated over three days to reach murder verdicts have only two recommendations available to them – death or life in prison without the possibility of parole.

The jury found the defendant guilty of 10 counts of first-degree murder for the killings of 10 women. The jury convicted him of one count of second-degree murder in the death of the fetus.

Turner was identified as a suspect in the murders after he underwent a mandatory DNA testing following a 2002 conviction for rape. He originally was charged in October 2004 with murdering the 10 women. The murder of the fetus was charged in an amended complaint filed a year later.

The murders started in 1987 and continued through 1998. All victims, except the fetus, were strangled.

The assault of one of the last victims – 38-year-old Paula Vance – near the rear loading area of an office building at 630 W. Sixth St. was captured on video tape. The investigating officer on the Feb. 2, 1998 murder was unable to identify a suspect. He took the Vance case with him when he was assigned to the LAPD's Cold Case Homicide Unit in 2001.

In September 2003, the detective received a "cold hit" notified from CODIS, the statewide DNA database. Turner, whose DNA sample went into the database after he was convicted of rape in 2002, was linked to the Vance murder and another killing in 1996.

Los Angeles police took a closer look at Turner's whereabouts over the past few years before he was convicted of rape. They also examined unsolved murders similar to that of Vance. Eight additional unsolved murders were linked to Turner, as well as two with another man who was convicted in 1995.

Further DNA testing excluded the other man – David Allen Jones – of the murders. The District Attorney's office asked the court to set aside those convictions. Jones was freed from prison in 2004.

Besides Vance and the fetus, Turner was convicted of murdering:

- Diane Johnson, 21, March 9, 1987
- Annette Ernest, 26, Oct. 29, 1987
- Anita Fishman, 31, Jan. 20, 1989
- Regina Washington, 27, Sept. 23, 1989
- Andrea Tripplett, 29, April 2, 1993
- Desarae Jones, 29, May 16, 1993
- Natalie Price, 31, Feb. 12, 1995
- Mildred Beasley, 45, Nov. 6, 1996
- Brenda Bries, 37, April 6, 1998

Turner was returned to Los Angeles from state prison after the charges were filed in 2004. He has remained in custody since that time.

sg

Please read our [Privacy Policy](#).

© 1994-2012 Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office. All Rights Reserved.



Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

[Home](#)

[Crimes of Violence](#)

[Working With Communities](#)

[Fraud & Corruption](#)

[Search](#)

[Meet the D.A.](#)

[Top Documents](#)

[Victim Services](#)

[Consumer Alert](#)

[Bureau of Investigation](#)

[Criminal Justice Institute](#)

[Newsroom](#)

[Job Listings](#)

[Office Overview](#)

[History of the Office](#)

[Office Locations](#)

[Office Directory](#)

[FAQs](#)

[Board Correspondence](#)

[L.A. County Home Page](#)

[Contact Us](#)

East L.A. Student Union President Charged with Selling Assault Weapons

April 30, 2007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contacts: [Joe Scott](#), Director of Communications

[Sandi Gibbons](#), Public Information Officer

[Jane Robison](#), News Secretary

(213) 974-3525

ALHAMBRA – The student union president of East Los Angeles College was charged today with multiple counts of possession for sale of assault weapons following a search of his Monterey Park home last week, the District Attorney's office announced.

Matthew Arthur Corwin, 23 (dob 12-11-83), is scheduled to be arraigned after 1:30 p.m. at Alhambra Superior Court, Division 5, said Deputy District Attorney Richard Sullivan, head deputy of the Alhambra office. Corwin is charged in case No. GA069547 with five counts of unlawful assault weapon sales, four counts of unlawful possession of assault weapons, two counts of possession of a deadly weapon and one count of receiving stolen property – all felonies. Prosecutors will ask bail be set at \$365,000. He is in custody.

Corwin allegedly posted photos of several unregistered assault weapons on his MySpace web site. Los Angeles County Sheriff's deputies and federal agents executed search warrants last Thursday. They arrested Corwin and confiscated numerous assault weapons, a military identification, a bullet-proof vest and a military chemical suit.

jr

Please read our [Privacy Policy](#).

© 1994-2012 Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office. All Rights Reserved.



[Home](#)

[Crimes of Violence](#)

[Working With Communities](#)

[Fraud & Corruption](#)

[Search](#)

[Meet the D.A.](#)

[Top Documents](#)

[Victim Services](#)

[Consumer Alert](#)

[Bureau of Investigation](#)

[Criminal Justice Institute](#)

[Newsroom](#)

[Job Listings](#)

[Office Overview](#)

[History of the Office](#)

[Office Locations](#)

[Office Directory](#)

[FAQs](#)

[Board Correspondence](#)

[L.A. County Home Page](#)

[Contact Us](#)

Former Business Partner Goes to Prison for Life for Mickey Thompson Murders

March 1, 2007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contacts: [Joe Scott](#), Director of Communications

[Sandi Gibbons](#), Public Information Officer

[Jane Robison](#), News Secretary

(213) 974-3525

PASADENA – Saying the “weight of this evidence was overwhelming,” a Pasadena judge today denied racing legend Mickey Thompson’s former business partner’s motion for a new trial and sentenced him to two consecutive life-without-parole terms for the murders of Thompson and his wife 19 years ago.

Superior Court Judge Teri Schwartz also denied a defense motion that claimed Michael Frank Goodwin, 62, was denied due process because of the length of time that passed between the Thompson murders on March 16, 1988, and his arrest on Dec. 13, 2001. He was first charged with murder in Orange County, but the case was dismissed by the California State Court of Appeal. The Los Angeles County District Attorney’s Office charged Goodwin with the murders on June 8, 2004.

Thompson, 59, and his 41-year-old wife, Trudy, were gunned down outside their home in the hillside San Gabriel Valley community of Bradbury as they left for work early in the morning of March 16, 1988. The killers rode bicycles and escaped. Neither has been found.

In a victim impact statement prior to sentencing, Collene Campbell, Thompson’s sister, held a framed photo of her brother, his wife and their dog Punkie that was taken before the murders. The photo was shown the jury at trial.

“That picture was so much fun to take that day,” Campbell said. She said it is hard for her to look at the photo now because, “just a couple of yards away was where the bodies of Mickey and Trudy were lying with their blood running down the driveway.”

“Michael Goodwin is a coward and a bully who hired and arranged for

shooters to kill Mickey and Trudy, all for his self-indulgence, greed and to accomplish his desired sinful plan,” she added. Campbell asked that the maximum sentences for each of murders run concurrently.

Deputy District Attorney Alan Jackson, who with Head Deputy District Attorney Patrick Dixon prosecuted the case, also asked for the consecutive sentences.

Goodwin’s attorney said they planned immediate appeal. And Goodwin, in a statement prior to sentencing, told the judge, “This may be a never-ending story because I will not let this go until the day I die.”

In ruling that Goodwin’s right to due process was not violated because of the time that lapsed between the murders in 1988 and his arrest in December 2001, the judge noted the case was first filed in Orange County, but the state Court of Appeal threw the case out on grounds the crimes occurred in Los Angeles County. By that time, she said, new evidence had been obtained.

“The appellate court practically begged Los Angeles to take another look at this case,” Schwartz said. The case against Goodwin was filed in Los Angeles in June 2004.

Dixon and Jackson contended during the trial that Goodwin hired hit men to kill the Thompsons because of a business dispute that ended with a nearly \$800,000 judgment against Goodwin.

Thompson, a racing promoter and successful businessman known as the “Speed King” for breaking the 400 mph record at Bonneville Salt Flats, had wanted to spend more time with his wife. In the early 1980s, he went into business with Goodwin, a motocross promoter. The partnership went sour within months. Thompson sued Goodwin for money he said was stolen by his partner. The courts upheld Thompson and rejected a countersuit by Goodwin.

Evidence at the trial was that Goodwin said he never would pay a dime to Thompson. Campbell noted in her statement that he never has.

Prosecutors presented evidence that revenge was the motive. They presented witness after witness who told of Goodwin’s threats to kill Thompson. They presented evidence that Trudy Thompson was murdered while her husband watched helpless, pleading with the killers to let her live.

“This was a circumstantial evidence case without the direct evidence to connect Mr. Goodwin,” Schwartz said in denying the motion for a new trial. “But the circumstantial evidence was overwhelming.”

sg

Please read our [Privacy Policy](#).

© 1994-2012 Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office. All Rights Reserved.



Home

Crimes of Violence

Working With Communities

Fraud & Corruption

Search

Meet the D.A.

Top Documents

Victim Services

Consumer Alert

Bureau of Investigation

Criminal Justice Institute

Newsroom

Job Listings

Office Overview

History of the Office

Office Locations

Office Directory

FAQs

Board Correspondence

L.A. County Home Page

Contact Us

Fugitive Pleads Guilty to Murdering Deputy David March; Sentenced to Prison for Life Without Parole

March 2, 2007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contacts: [Joe Scott](#), Director of Communications

[Sandi Gibbons](#), Public Information Officer

[Jane Robison](#), News Secretary

(213) 974-3525

POMONA – The man who escaped to Mexico after murdering Sheriff's Deputy David March in Irwindale nearly five years ago pleaded guilty today and was sentenced to spend the remainder of his life in prison.

Jorge Arroyo Garcia, 30, also known by various aliases including Armando Garcia, was sentenced immediately by Pomona Superior Court Judge Charles Horan.

"Justice was done today," District Attorney Steve Cooley said. "The man who gunned down Deputy David March nearly five years ago and left him to die on a street in Irwindale will be locked away forever. It is the same sentence he would have received had he gone to trial.

"Had it not been for the persistence and joint efforts of local, state, federal and Mexican officials, this day would not have come and Jorge Arroyo Garcia would still be a free man in Mexico," he added. Cooley, who with Sheriff Lee Baca attended the court session, also praised the "vigilance" of the March family in ensuring Garcia was captured and returned to stand trial.

"These criminals are being and will be caught. They will be returned to the United States – as Garcia was two months ago," Cooley said. "They will be prosecuted. Justice will be served.

"Garcia is the first of several being returned from Mexico who will be sentenced to life in prison for his crimes," Cooley said. "His guilty plea brings hope to hundreds of next of kin, victims and survivors of crimes in which the perpetrator fled to Mexico to avoid prosecution."

In a written plea agreement initialed and signed by Garcia, the defendant

pleaded guilty to second-degree murder and admitted that it was an intentional killing of a peace officer performing his duties, and that the defendant used a 9 mm semiautomatic pistol to commit the crime.

Garcia, wearing an orange jailhouse uniform, answered, "Yes," or, "No," through a Spanish-language interpreter as the judge carefully questioned him on each of the terms that he signed in the plea agreement.

The defendant quietly and in English read a short written statement in which he admitted the killing. He then made a lengthy statement in Spanish in which he asked for forgiveness by friends and family of the man he killed.

Barbara March, the deputy's mother, said, "I know my son's heart and I believe in his heart he would forgive this man for what he has done.

"This man over her chose to do evil with his life...I am glad now he can serve his punishment for this horrific crime."

Horan ordered the defendant to pay \$2,225 in restitution and fees. On motion of Deputy District Attorney Darren Levine, who prosecuted the case, he dismissed additional charges after the life sentence was imposed.

Garcia had been charged with two unrelated counts of attempted murder.

Deputy March was killed on April 29, 2002, after a routine traffic stop of Garcia's car in Irwindale. The defendant fled after the fatal shooting. Garcia eventually was arrested in a small town just outside of Guadalajara on Feb. 23, 2006. He remained in custody until his Mexican appeals were exhausted, then extradited to Los Angeles in early January.

sg

Please read our [Privacy Policy](#).

© 1994-2012 Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office. All Rights Reserved.



Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

[Home](#)

[Crimes of Violence](#)

[Working With Communities](#)

[Fraud & Corruption](#)

[Search](#)

[Meet the D.A.](#)

[Top Documents](#)

[Victim Services](#)

[Consumer Alert](#)

[Bureau of Investigation](#)

[Criminal Justice Institute](#)

[Newsroom](#)

[Job Listings](#)

[Office Overview](#)

[History of the Office](#)

[Office Locations](#)

[Office Directory](#)

[FAQs](#)

[Board Correspondence](#)

[L.A. County Home Page](#)

[Contact Us](#)

LAPD Officer Charged with Unlawful Use of Force

March 5, 2007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contacts: [Joe Scott](#), Director of Communications

[Sandi Gibbons](#), Public Information Officer

[Jane Robison](#), News Secretary

(213) 974-3525

LOS ANGELES – A 41-year-old LAPD officer was charged today with unlawful use of force and filing a false police report after he allegedly choked and punched a male juvenile following his arrest, the District Attorney's office announced.

Sean Joseph Meade, (dob 8-10-65), is scheduled to be arraigned after 1:30 p. m. at the Foltz Criminal Justice Center, Division 30, on the two felony counts, said Deputy District Attorney Sean Hassett with the Justice System Integrity Division. He is charged in case No. BA318119. Meade is scheduled to surrender to the court at 1:30 p.m.

Meade allegedly assaulted a handcuffed 16-year-old male at Central Station after the juvenile was arrested on Dec. 5, 2006. The alleged assault was caught on videotape by LAPD.

jr

Please read our [Privacy Policy](#).

© 1994-2012 Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office. All Rights Reserved.



Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

[Home](#)

[Crimes of Violence](#)

[Working With Communities](#)

[Fraud & Corruption](#)

[Search](#)

[Meet the D.A.](#)

[Top Documents](#)

[Victim Services](#)

[Consumer Alert](#)

[Bureau of Investigation](#)

[Criminal Justice Institute](#)

[Newsroom](#)

[Job Listings](#)

[Office Overview](#)

[History of the Office](#)

[Office Locations](#)

[Office Directory](#)

[FAQs](#)

[Board Correspondence](#)

[L.A. County Home Page](#)

[Contact Us](#)

Two Charged in Torrance Bank Robberies

March 6, 2007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contacts: [Joe Scott](#), Director of Communications

[Sandi Gibbons](#), Public Information Officer

[Jane Robison](#), News Secretary

(213) 974-3525

TORRANCE – Two Long Beach men were charged today with robbing two Torrance banks within minutes of each other last month, the District Attorney's office announced.

Robert Ray Armijo, 41 (dob 10-3-1965), and Gary Joseph Cruz, 45 (dob 5-5-1961), were scheduled to be arraigned this afternoon in Division 4 of South Bay Superior Court in Torrance. They were arrested in Corona on Friday and remain in custody.

Armijo and Cruz each are charged in case No. YA067595 with two counts of second-degree robbery. The complaint alleged the robberies "involved great violence" and "threat of great bodily harm." It also was alleged that Armijo carried out the robberies with "planning, sophistication and professionalism."

When the arrests were announced by Torrance police last week, authorities said the men are being investigated in connection with 18 other Southern California robberies dating back to last December.

One of the robbery counts filed today alleged that the pair robbed a Citibank branch in Torrance on Feb. 17 of this year. The second robbery count alleged that the pair robbed a Union Bank branch in Torrance on the same day. The complaint did not state what was taken, other than the defendants held up tellers at each bank.

The complaint additionally charged Cruz with one count each of possession of a firearm by a felon and possession of ammunition. It also alleged that Armijo is on parole and listed numerous prior convictions for each defendant.

Bail was recommended at \$3 million for Armijo and \$2 million for Cruz.

The case was filed by Deputy District Attorney Amy-Hannah Broersma of the

Torrance office. It has not yet been assigned to a trial prosecutor.

sg

Please read our [Privacy Policy](#).

© 1994-2012 Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office. All Rights Reserved.



Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

[Home](#)

[Crimes of Violence](#)

[Working With Communities](#)

[Fraud & Corruption](#)

[Search](#)

[Meet the D.A.](#)

[Top Documents](#)

[Victim Services](#)

[Consumer Alert](#)

[Bureau of Investigation](#)

[Criminal Justice Institute](#)

[Newsroom](#)

[Job Listings](#)

[Office Overview](#)

[History of the Office](#)

[Office Locations](#)

[Office Directory](#)

[FAQs](#)

[Board Correspondence](#)

[L.A. County Home Page](#)

[Contact Us](#)

Two Arrested, Charged in UCLA Willied-Body Case

March 7, 2007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contacts: [Joe Scott](#), Director of Communications

[Sandi Gibbons](#), Public Information Officer

[Jane Robison](#), News Secretary

(213) 974-3525

LOS ANGELES – The former director of UCLA's Willied Body Program and an associate were arrested today on a felony complaint for arrest warrant charging them with conspiracy and grand theft for allegedly running a body-parts-for-profit scheme over several years, the District Attorney's office announced.

Henry Reid, who was hired in May 1997 as director of UCLA's Willied Body Program, was arrested this morning at his home in Anaheim. Ernest Nelson, who owned and operated Empire Anatomical Co., was arrested at his home in Rancho Cucamonga, said Deputy District Attorney Marisa Zarate with the Major Fraud Division, who is prosecuting the case. Both men were arrested by UCLA police, who conducted the investigation.

Reid and Nelson are charged in case No. BA317847 with one count each of conspiracy with the special allegations that the loss was more than \$150,000.

In addition, Reid, 57, is charged with one count of grand theft by embezzlement and one count of grand theft.

In addition to conspiracy, Nelson, 49, is charged with one count of grand theft and three counts each of tax evasion.

According to the complaint, between May 7, 1999 and Feb. 26, 2004, Reid and Nelson conspired to defraud UCLA's Willied Body Program of its donor bodies for personal financial gain. Reid allegedly sold human body parts from UCLA's program to Nelson and deposited thousands of dollars into his personal bank account. In turn, Nelson allegedly made more than \$1 million by selling the human cadavers and body parts supplied by Reid to more than 20 private medical, pharmaceutical and hospital research companies.

The complaint alleges in overt acts that the pair conspired to hide the

scheme by creating bogus forms to give the appearance that Nelson had authority to receive body parts from the Willed Body Program. And when a California Department of Health Services agent began in investigation, Nelson allegedly denied he was involved.

Nelson also allegedly provided false serology reports for the human body parts he got from UCLA and that he delivered to a San Diego medical research company.

The scheme allegedly began to unravel in the spring of 2003 when Reid asked Nelson to return body parts he still had. In November 2003, Nelson notified UCLA that he was going to sue for more than \$241,000, alleging that Reid owed him money for the human body parts he returned.

The complaint also charges Nelson with underreporting his income for 2001 and 2002 and failing to file a state tax return in 2003.

Both men are being held on \$1 million bail each. They are scheduled to be arraigned later this week at the Foltz Criminal Justice Center, Division 30.

jr

Please read our [Privacy Policy](#).

© 1994-2012 Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office. All Rights Reserved.



Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

[Home](#)

[Crimes of Violence](#)

[Working With Communities](#)

[Fraud & Corruption](#)

[Search](#)

[Meet the D.A.](#)

[Top Documents](#)

[Victim Services](#)

[Consumer Alert](#)

[Bureau of Investigation](#)

[Criminal Justice Institute](#)

[Newsroom](#)

[Job Listings](#)

[Office Overview](#)

[History of the Office](#)

[Office Locations](#)

[Office Directory](#)

[FAQs](#)

[Board Correspondence](#)

[L.A. County Home Page](#)

[Contact Us](#)

Anti-Gang Officer Charged with Drug Possession

March 7, 2007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contacts: [Joe Scott](#), Director of Communications

[Sandi Gibbons](#), Public Information Officer

[Jane Robison](#), News Secretary

(213) 974-3525

SAN FERNANDO – The director of job development for Communities in Schools, one of the largest gang-intervention programs in the San Fernando Valley, was charged today with transportation of a controlled substance and possession for sale of methamphetamine, the District Attorney's office announced.

Mario Antonio Corona, 30 (dob 9-29-76), was charged in a felony complaint for arrest warrant in case No. PA058689, said Deputy District Attorney Jack Garden with the Hardcore Gang Division.

Corona was arrested Feb. 28 in Sylmar by LAPD's Foothill Division Narcotics Division as part of a larger investigation. Officers allegedly found a pound of methamphetamine in his vehicle.

Corona, an admitted former gang member, was released on \$40,000 bail on March 1. He was re-arrested on the immigration hold and is currently in federal custody. Because he is in federal custody, arraignment information is pending.

If convicted, he's facing up to four years in state prison.

jr

Please read our [Privacy Policy](#).

© 1994-2012 Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office. All Rights Reserved.



Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

[Home](#)

[Crimes of Violence](#)

[Working With Communities](#)

[Fraud & Corruption](#)

[Search](#)

[Meet the D.A.](#)

[Top Documents](#)

[Victim Services](#)

[Consumer Alert](#)

[Bureau of Investigation](#)

[Criminal Justice Institute](#)

[Newsroom](#)

[Job Listings](#)

[Office Overview](#)

[History of the Office](#)

[Office Locations](#)

[Office Directory](#)

[FAQs](#)

[Board Correspondence](#)

[L.A. County Home Page](#)

[Contact Us](#)

"Prison Break" Actor Charged in Fatal Car Crash

March 8, 2007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contacts: [Joe Scott](#), Director of Communications

[Sandi Gibbons](#), Public Information Officer

[Jane Robison](#), News Secretary

(213) 974-3525

BEVERLY HILLS – Actor Lane Garrison was charged today with vehicular manslaughter in connection with a fatal car crash in Beverly Hills in December that left one of his three teenage passengers dead.

Garrison, 26, was expected to be arraigned after 1:30 p.m. today in Beverly Hills Superior Court. He was not arrested after the Dec. 2 crash on South Beverly Drive near Olympic Boulevard.

The actor was charged in case No. SA063322 with one count each of vehicular manslaughter while intoxicated and without gross negligence, driving under the influence causing injury to multiple victims, driving with a .08 percent blood alcohol level causing injury and furnishing alcohol to a minor. The DUI counts alleged that the defendant was driving with a blood alcohol level of more than .15 percent.

The vehicular manslaughter and DUI counts were filed as felonies. The furnishing alcohol charge was filed as a misdemeanor.

Vahagn Setian, 17, who riding in Garrison's SUV, was killed in the crash. The actor's two other passengers, 15-year-old girls, were injured in the crash when Garrison's vehicle struck a tree shortly before midnight.

If convicted of the charges, Garrison faces a possible maximum state prison term of six years and eight months. Bail was recommended at \$200,000.

Deputy District Attorney Joseph Markus is prosecuting the case.

Garrison stars in the Fox television drama "Prison Break."

sg

Please read our [Privacy Policy](#).

© 1994-2012 Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office. All Rights Reserved.



Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

[Home](#)

[Crimes of Violence](#)

[Working With Communities](#)

[Fraud & Corruption](#)

[Search](#)

[Meet the D.A.](#)

[Top Documents](#)

[Victim Services](#)

[Consumer Alert](#)

[Bureau of Investigation](#)

[Criminal Justice Institute](#)

[Newsroom](#)

[Job Listings](#)

[Office Overview](#)

[History of the Office](#)

[Office Locations](#)

[Office Directory](#)

[FAQs](#)

[Board Correspondence](#)

[L.A. County Home Page](#)

[Contact Us](#)

Father, Son Charged with Sexual Molestation

March 9, 2007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contacts: [Joe Scott](#), Director of Communications

[Sandi Gibbons](#), Public Information Officer

[Jane Robison](#), News Secretary

(213) 974-3525

POMONA – A Covina father and son suspected of having sex with a 14-year-old Long Beach girl they met over a telephone party line were charged today with multiple counts of sexual molestation of a child, the District Attorney's office announced.

Thomas Alan Hinds Jr., 28 (dob 1-3-79), and Thomas Alan Hinds Sr., 50 (dob 3-19-56), are charged in case No. KA078372. They are scheduled to be arraigned today in Pomona Superior Court, Dept. F. The son is being held on \$800,000 bail. The father is being held on \$915,000 bail.

Thomas Hinds Jr. allegedly gave the girl his phone number after meeting her through a telephone party line. When she allegedly called him back, he invited her to his Covina apartment. Thomas Hinds Sr. allegedly picked her up on Long Beach and drove her back to Covina. The pair was arrested after the girl called her grandmother and her grandfather called police.

They are charged with various counts of sexual molestation, lewd act on a child and unlawful sexual intercourse. The molestation allegedly occurred between March 1 and March 7.

jr

Please read our [Privacy Policy](#).

© 1994-2012 Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office. All Rights Reserved.



Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

[Home](#)

[Crimes of Violence](#)

[Working With Communities](#)

[Fraud & Corruption](#)

[Search](#)

[Meet the D.A.](#)

[Top Documents](#)

[Victim Services](#)

[Consumer Alert](#)

[Bureau of Investigation](#)

[Criminal Justice Institute](#)

[Newsroom](#)

[Job Listings](#)

[Office Overview](#)

[History of the Office](#)

[Office Locations](#)

[Office Directory](#)

[FAQs](#)

[Board Correspondence](#)

[L.A. County Home Page](#)

[Contact Us](#)

Man Convicted in Tarzana Murder

March 12, 2007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contacts: [Joe Scott](#), Director of Communications

[Sandi Gibbons](#), Public Information Officer

[Jane Robison](#), News Secretary

(213) 974-3525

VAN NUYS – A Van Nuys Superior Court jury convicted a 23-year-old man of murder, attempted murder and other crimes today in connection with the fatal shooting of another man after an exchange of words at a Tarzana nightclub in 2004.

The jury deliberated a little more than a day before convicting Erick Antonio Rodriguez of murder, attempted murder, assault with a firearm and shooting at an occupied vehicle. The jury also found true the gun use allegations against the defendant.

Rodriguez, of Canoga Park, was arrested by Los Angeles police on Oct. 28, 2004, following the fatal shooting of Tae Joon Kim, 26, of Van Nuys.

Kim, who had two passengers with him, was shot while driving east on Victory Boulevard near White Oak Avenue in Encino. Neither passenger was seriously hurt in the shooting, which came after Kim and the defendant exchanged words at a Tarzana nightclub earlier that evening.

The defendant has remained in custody on \$4.65 million bail since his arrest.

He faces a possible life-with-parole prison sentence when he returns to trial Judge Richard Kischner on April 10.

Deputy District Attorney Richard Quinones of the Van Nuys office prosecuted the case.

sg

Please read our [Privacy Policy](#).

© 1994-2012 Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office. All Rights Reserved.



[Home](#)

[Crimes of Violence](#)

[Working With Communities](#)

[Fraud & Corruption](#)

[Search](#)

[Meet the D.A.](#)

[Top Documents](#)

[Victim Services](#)

[Consumer Alert](#)

[Bureau of Investigation](#)

[Criminal Justice Institute](#)

[Newsroom](#)

[Job Listings](#)

[Office Overview](#)

[History of the Office](#)

[Office Locations](#)

[Office Directory](#)

[FAQs](#)

[Board Correspondence](#)

[L.A. County Home Page](#)

[Contact Us](#)

Gang Member Sentenced to 40-Years-to-Life in Prison for Shooting at LAPD Officers

March 12, 2007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contacts: [Joe Scott](#), Director of Communications

[Sandi Gibbons](#), Public Information Officer

[Jane Robison](#), News Secretary

(213) 974-3525

LOS ANGELES – A gang member was sentenced today to a 40-year-to-life prison term for shooting at Los Angeles police officers and wounding one of them in the hand at a Hollenbeck area apartment complex nearly two years ago.

Deputy District Attorney Stephanie Sparagna of the Crimes Against Police Officers Section (CAPOS) said 21-year-old Rodrigo Perez was sentenced by Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Judith L. Champagne, who presided over the defendant's trial earlier this year.

Sparagna said Perez, an 8th Street gang member, fired into a group of eight Los Angeles police officers gathered in the parking lot of Estrada Courts Apartment around 3 a.m. on July 3, 2005. The officers were there completing a carjacking investigation.

She said Perez was the passenger in a car that drove by the officers. He fired at the officers with a semiautomatic machine gun, hitting Officer Alex Fuentes in the hand.

Bullets from the drive-by shooting went through the living room and into the kitchen of a nearby home. No one in the house was hit.

Perez was arrested in February 2006 by Los Angeles police and has been held on \$5 million bail since his arrest. He was convicted by a jury on Feb. 9.

sg

Please read our [Privacy Policy](#).

© 1994-2012 Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office. All Rights Reserved.



Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

[Home](#)

[Crimes of Violence](#)

[Working With Communities](#)

[Fraud & Corruption](#)

[Search](#)

[Meet the D.A.](#)

[Top Documents](#)

[Victim Services](#)

[Consumer Alert](#)

[Bureau of Investigation](#)

[Criminal Justice Institute](#)

[Newsroom](#)

[Job Listings](#)

[Office Overview](#)

[History of the Office](#)

[Office Locations](#)

[Office Directory](#)

[FAQs](#)

[Board Correspondence](#)

[L.A. County Home Page](#)

[Contact Us](#)

Two Charged in Wilshire Area Dognapping Case

March 13, 2007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contacts: [Joe Scott](#), Director of Communications

[Sandi Gibbons](#), Public Information Officer

[Jane Robison](#), News Secretary

(213) 974-3525

LOS ANGELES – Two young Los Angeles men have been charged with stealing purebred Yorkshire Terrier puppies and an adult dog from the owners' Wilshire area home last month, the District Attorney's office announced today.

The defendants, currently free on bail, are due to appear in Los Angeles Superior Court for arraignment on April 4.

Case No. BA318532 charged the pair with four counts of first-degree residential robbery, four counts of grand theft-dog and count of first-degree burglary with a person present. The complaint alleged that one of the defendants – Troy Cabral -- personally used a handgun during commission of the crime. All counts carried the allegation that the crimes were committed while a principal in the offenses was armed with a handgun.

Cabral, 23 (dob 8-28-1983), and Ryan Jason Betton, 19 (dob 1-12-1988), were arrested by Los Angeles police earlier this month. Each was released on \$100,000 bail.

Authorities said the puppies, which had been advertised for sale at \$2,500 each, and the adult dog were recovered and reunited with their owners. The animals were taken at gunpoint on Feb. 23 from the owners' home in the 200 block of North Manhattan Place in the Wilshire area of Los Angeles.

sg

Please read our [Privacy Policy](#).



Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

[Home](#)

[Crimes of Violence](#)

[Working With Communities](#)

[Fraud & Corruption](#)

[Search](#)

[Meet the D.A.](#)

[Top Documents](#)

[Victim Services](#)

[Consumer Alert](#)

[Bureau of Investigation](#)

[Criminal Justice Institute](#)

[Newsroom](#)

[Job Listings](#)

[Office Overview](#)

[History of the Office](#)

[Office Locations](#)

[Office Directory](#)

[FAQs](#)

[Board Correspondence](#)

[L.A. County Home Page](#)

[Contact Us](#)

Two Charged in Chinatown Lottery Ticket Theft

March 15, 2007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contacts: [Joe Scott](#), Director of Communications

[Sandi Gibbons](#), Public Information Officer

[Jane Robison](#), News Secretary

(213) 974-3525

LOS ANGELES – Criminal charges were filed by the District Attorney's office today against two Los Angeles men accused of stealing 3,000 lottery tickets and \$400 in cash from a Chinatown market last month.

Alberto Hernandez (dob 2-7-1975) and Jesus Gonzalez (dob 6-28-1974), both 32 and from Los Angeles, were scheduled to be arraigned after 1:30 p. m. today in Los Angeles Superior Court Division 30. Both were arrested on Tuesday.

The men were charged in case No. BA318806 with two counts of second-degree robbery and two counts of false imprisonment by violence. The complaint alleged the defendants were armed during commission of the crimes. Bail was recommended at \$195,000 each.

Sunny's Market on Alpine Street in Chinatown was robbed of the lottery tickets and \$400 in cash on Feb. 20. The market owner, his wife and two unidentified customers were herded to the rear of the store at gunpoint during the holdup. Before they left, the robbers took a surveillance video, not realizing a second one was operating at the same time, authorities said.

Los Angeles police said that an hour after the robbery, a woman cashed some of the lottery tickets at a North Figueroa Street drive-in. The Lottery Commission notified police and the woman was eventually identified by police as Gonzalez's wife. Search warrants were obtained and evidence recovered, leading to the arrests of Gonzalez and Hernandez.

sg

Please read our [Privacy Policy](#).

© 1994-2012 Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office. All Rights Reserved.



[Home](#)

[Crimes of Violence](#)

[Working With Communities](#)

[Fraud & Corruption](#)

[Search](#)

[Meet the D.A.](#)

[Top Documents](#)

[Victim Services](#)

[Consumer Alert](#)

[Bureau of Investigation](#)

[Criminal Justice Institute](#)

[Newsroom](#)

[Job Listings](#)

[Office Overview](#)

[History of the Office](#)

[Office Locations](#)

[Office Directory](#)

[FAQs](#)

[Board Correspondence](#)

[L.A. County Home Page](#)

[Contact Us](#)

Gang Member Convicted of Murdering Iraqi War Veteran

March 19, 2007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contacts: [Joe Scott](#), Director of Communications

[Sandi Gibbons](#), Public Information Officer

[Jane Robison](#), News Secretary

(213) 974-3525

COMPTON – A gang member charged with murdering an Iraqi War veteran and trying to kill the victim's wife, unborn child and brother was convicted by a jury today of first-degree murder and attempted murder.

Deputy District Attorney Andrew Kim of the Hardcore Gang Division said Raul Damian Martinez, 24, faces multiple 25-year-to-life prison terms when he appears for sentencing on April 19 before trial Judge David Sotelo in Compton Superior Court.

The jury deliberated about three hours before convicting Martinez of one count of first-degree murder and three counts of attempted murder. The jury determined that the defendant personally discharged a firearm causing death or great bodily injury to his victims. The jury also determined that the shootings were "for the benefit of, at the direction of, and in association with a criminal street gang."

Osiel Hipolito, 20, was shot and killed Sept. 3, 2005, and he, his pregnant wife and his teenage brother were at a swap meet near Compton. Gang members accosted the young sailor, a former Sheriff's Explorer Scout who had served one tour of duty in Iraq and was due for a second Persian Gulf tour in 2006.

He was shot dead while trying to defend himself and his family. His wife, their unborn daughter and his brother all were wounded. The baby was born with a bullet wound in her leg at a local hospital where the victims were taken after the shooting.

Martinez was arrested in the Moreno Valley in Riverside County, where he lived, a few days after the shooting. He has remained in custody since then.

sg

Please read our [Privacy Policy](#).

© 1994-2012 Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office. All Rights Reserved.



Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

[Home](#)

[Crimes of Violence](#)

[Working With Communities](#)

[Fraud & Corruption](#)

[Search](#)

[Meet the D.A.](#)

[Top Documents](#)

[Victim Services](#)

[Consumer Alert](#)

[Bureau of Investigation](#)

[Criminal Justice Institute](#)

[Newsroom](#)

[Job Listings](#)

[Office Overview](#)

[History of the Office](#)

[Office Locations](#)

[Office Directory](#)

[FAQs](#)

[Board Correspondence](#)

[L.A. County Home Page](#)

[Contact Us](#)

Man Charged in 34-Year-Old Murder

March 20, 2007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contacts: [Joe Scott](#), Director of Communications

[Sandi Gibbons](#), Public Information Officer

[Jane Robison](#), News Secretary

(213) 974-3525

LOS ANGELES – A man currently serving a state prison term has been charged with the 34-year-old murder of an elderly widow who was beaten to death during a burglary at her South Los Angeles home.

Deputy District Attorney Alisanne Scolnik said Jesse Clifton Wimberly Jr., 53 (dob 10-9-1953), is expected to be transferred from prison in San Luis Obispo to Los Angeles on April 6. Arraignment will be sometime that week in Division 30 of Los Angeles Superior Court.

Wimberly was 19 on Feb. 10, 1973, when 86-year-old Anna Lockner was beaten by two men who broke down the front door of her residence in the 760 block of West 99th Street. They ransacked the home and severely beat the elderly woman, taking \$15 from her and leaving her incapacitated. A neighbor saw her open front door the next morning and called police, who found the victim still alive.

Lockner died from her injuries at the hospital several hours after the predawn attack. She was able to tell police about her attackers, however, saying two men kicked in her door. She said they took the \$15 from underclothing.

Fingerprints were recovered at the scene. At the time, however, law enforcement did not have the computerized technology available and could not identify them. The case went to the Los Angeles Police Department's Cold Case Unit, which submitted those prints along with other prints from about 75 unsolved murder cases to the LAPD's Scientific Investigation Division (SID).

The prints were run through the Automated Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS) and Wimberly was identified as a suspect. A second man believed to have been with him when the Lockner's murder occurred was himself killed a few years ago, Scolnik said.

Scolnick charged Wimberly with one count of murder in case No. BA318948.

sg

Please read our [Privacy Policy](#).

© 1994-2012 Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office. All Rights Reserved.



Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

[Home](#)

[Crimes of Violence](#)

[Working With Communities](#)

[Fraud & Corruption](#)

[Search](#)

[Meet the D.A.](#)

[Top Documents](#)

[Victim Services](#)

[Consumer Alert](#)

[Bureau of Investigation](#)

[Criminal Justice Institute](#)

[Newsroom](#)

[Job Listings](#)

[Office Overview](#)

[History of the Office](#)

[Office Locations](#)

[Office Directory](#)

[FAQs](#)

[Board Correspondence](#)

[L.A. County Home Page](#)

[Contact Us](#)

Hawaiian Gardens Gang Member Convicted of Murdering Sheriff's Deputy

March 20, 2007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contacts: [Joe Scott](#), Director of Communications

[Sandi Gibbons](#), Public Information Officer

[Jane Robison](#), News Secretary

(213) 974-3525

NORWALK – A Hawaiian Gardens gang member was convicted today of gunning down Sheriff's Deputy Luis Gerardo (Jerry) Ortiz outside an apartment in June 2005 during an investigation into a shooting.

The same Norwalk Superior Court jury that convicted 29-year-old Jose Luis Orozco of first-degree murder and other charges, along with several special circumstances, will begin hearing evidence at a penalty phase next week. Deputy District Attorney Lowell Anger of the Crimes Against Police Officers Section (CAPOS) will seek the death penalty.

The jury in the court of Judge Philip Hickok began deliberations late yesterday and returned verdicts before noon today. Besides first-degree murder, Orozco was convicted of attempted murder and possession of a firearm by a felon. Jurors found true the special circumstances of murder of a peace officer intentionally killed while performing his duties, murder to avoid arrest, street gang murder and lying in wait. The jury found true the allegations the defendant personally used a handgun to commit the murder and the attempted murder.

Ortiz, 35, was killed on June 24, 2005, outside an apartment in the 12000 block of East 223rd Street in Hawaiian Gardens. The deputy was with the Sheriff's gang enforcement unit and was investigating a June 20, 2005, shooting in which Orozco was a suspect.

He spotted Orozco shortly after 3 p.m. the day of the shooting and chased him to the apartment. Orozco was hiding behind the apartment's front door. He fired at the deputy and ran.

Orozco was arrested five buildings away on 223rd Street shortly before midnight. A .38-caliber revolver was recovered.

The defendant, who has remained in custody without bail, also was convicted of the June 20, 2005, attempted murder of a man who was shot while doing yard work at a home in the 22000 block of Joliet Avenue in Hawaiian Gardens. The victim was shot in the back, but survived. The jury also determined that shooting was a street gang crime.

sg

Please read our [Privacy Policy](#).

© 1994-2012 Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office. All Rights Reserved.



Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

[Home](#)

[Crimes of Violence](#)

[Working With Communities](#)

[Fraud & Corruption](#)

[Search](#)

[Meet the D.A.](#)

[Top Documents](#)

[Victim Services](#)

[Consumer Alert](#)

[Bureau of Investigation](#)

[Criminal Justice Institute](#)

[Newsroom](#)

[Job Listings](#)

[Office Overview](#)

[History of the Office](#)

[Office Locations](#)

[Office Directory](#)

[FAQs](#)

[Board Correspondence](#)

[L.A. County Home Page](#)

[Contact Us](#)

"60 Freeway Slayer" Formally Sentenced to Death

March 21, 2007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contacts: [Joe Scott](#), Director of Communications

[Sandi Gibbons](#), Public Information Officer

[Jane Robison](#), News Secretary

(213) 974-3525

LOS ANGELES – Ivan Hill, the convicted "60 Freeway Slayer" of six women in 1993 and 1994, was formally sentenced to death today by Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Larry Paul Fidler, who presided over Hill's jury trial.

Prior to sentencing, Fidler denied defense motions to set aside the verdict and modify the recommended death penalty. Family members of some of the six victims – including sisters, a brother, daughters and a husband – presented emotional statements condemning the defendant for acting as "judge, jury and executioner" of their loved ones.

"I can find no reason, Mr. Hill, not to sentence you to death," the judge said in imposing sentence. He noted that Hill was convicted of six murders in the current case, evidence of two other murders were introduced at his trial and he had been convicted of a murder in an unrelated case. "Those are nine people no longer with us," Fidler said.

A jury convicted Hill of murder with special circumstances on Nov. 17, 2006. The same jury on Jan. 2 of this year recommended that he receive the death penalty. Some members of the jury attended the lengthy sentencing hearing today.

Hill was in prison in November 2003 when charged with the murders of five of the six victims. The murder of the sixth victim was under investigation when the case originally was filed. A charge alleging her murder was added later.

Two of the victims were killed in San Bernardino County. Under an agreement with the San Bernardino County District Attorney's Office, all the murders were tried together in Los Angeles County by Deputy District Attorney John Monaghan of the Major Crimes Division.

All the victims were strangled and their bodies left near the 60 Freeway, prompting the serial murders to be known as the "60 Freeway Slayings." Hill was linked to the killings through DNA.

District Attorney Steve Cooley has called the Hill case a dramatic example of how "law enforcement agencies can reach back in time and bring criminals to justice through DNA technology and a more comprehensive felon DNA database."

The serial killers victims were:

- Betty Sue Harris, 37, whose body was found about 4:45 a.m. on Nov. 1, 1993, in the parking lot of an industrial complex in Diamond Bar.
- Roxanne Bates, 31, whose body was found about 3:45 a.m. on Nov. 5, 1993, alongside a road in Chino.
- Helen Hill, 35, whose body was found about 10 a.m. on Nov. 14, 1993, in the parking lot of an industrial complex in the City of Industry.
- Donna Goldsmith, 35, whose body was found about 5:15 a.m. on Nov. 16, 1993, in the parking lot of an industrial complex in Pomona.
- Cheryl Sayers, 34, whose body was found about 6:35 a.m. on Dec. 30, 1993, in Ganesha Park in Pomona.
- Debra Brown, 33, whose body was found about 5 a.m. on Jan. 12, 1994, in San Antonio Park in Ontario.

Hill was arrested in February 1994 in Upland in connection with a string of nine robberies between Nov. 23, 1993, and Feb. 24, 1994. Eight of the robberies were in San Bernardino County and one in eastern Los Angeles County.

He was successfully prosecuted in San Bernardino County and was sentenced to state prison. He had been scheduled for release in February 2004, but because of the murder case, he has remained in custody without bail.

The investigation and prosecution, said Cooley, demonstrated interagency cooperation at its best. Besides the San Bernardino District Attorney's Office, other agencies involved included the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department and the Pomona, Ontario and Chino police departments.

sg

Please read our [Privacy Policy](#).

© 1994-2012 Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office. All Rights Reserved.



Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

[Home](#)

[Crimes of Violence](#)

[Working With Communities](#)

[Fraud & Corruption](#)

[Search](#)

[Meet the D.A.](#)

[Top Documents](#)

[Victim Services](#)

[Consumer Alert](#)

[Bureau of Investigation](#)

[Criminal Justice Institute](#)

[Newsroom](#)

[Job Listings](#)

[Office Overview](#)

[History of the Office](#)

[Office Locations](#)

[Office Directory](#)

[FAQs](#)

[Board Correspondence](#)

[L.A. County Home Page](#)

[Contact Us](#)

Women Charged in Altadena Murder; Child Abduction

March 22, 2007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contacts: [Joe Scott](#), Director of Communications

[Sandi Gibbons](#), Public Information Officer

[Jane Robison](#), News Secretary

(213) 974-3525

PASADENA – Two women have been charged with murdering an Altadena man on Sunday, then fleeing with the 4-year-old son of one. Both were arrested in Las Vegas two days later with the boy.

Extradition requests for the pair were issued by the District Attorney's Family Violence Division yesterday. If the women waive extradition, they could be returned to Los Angeles County as early as next week.

Mesha Arshaz Dean (dob 5-2-1984), and Vanessa Marie Ochoa (dob 10-6-1984), both 22, were charged yesterday in case No. GA062947 with one count of murder and one count of child abuse. The complaint alleged that Dean used a handgun to fatally shoot Monroe M. on March 18. The complaint also alleged handgun use in the child abuse charge.

Bail of slightly more than \$2 million was recommended for Dean. Bail of slightly more than \$1 million was recommended for Ochoa. If convicted, the women face prison terms of life with the possibility of parole.

The victim, authorities said, was the uncle of the child, Manaen M. The child and his father had left Las Vegas and were staying in Los Angeles County. The shooting occurred early Sunday afternoon at the Altadena home of the uncle and the child's grandparents.

Sheriff's deputies said the women and the boy were spotted by Las Vegas Metro police in a vehicle that had been described in a statewide Amber Alert issued after the child was taken.

Deputy District Attorney Mary Murray of the Family Violence Division will prosecute the case.

sg

Please read our [Privacy Policy](#).

© 1994-2012 Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office. All Rights Reserved.



Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

[Home](#)

[Crimes of Violence](#)

[Working With Communities](#)

[Fraud & Corruption](#)

[Search](#)

[Meet the D.A.](#)

[Top Documents](#)

[Victim Services](#)

[Consumer Alert](#)

[Bureau of Investigation](#)

[Criminal Justice Institute](#)

[Newsroom](#)

[Job Listings](#)

[Office Overview](#)

[History of the Office](#)

[Office Locations](#)

[Office Directory](#)

[FAQs](#)

[Board Correspondence](#)

[L.A. County Home Page](#)

[Contact Us](#)

Convicted Sex Offender Pleads Guilty to Sexually Molesting Six Victims

March 22, 2007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contacts: [Joe Scott](#), Director of Communications

[Sandi Gibbons](#), Public Information Officer

[Jane Robison](#), News Secretary

(213) 974-3525

LOS ANGELES -- A registered sex offender caught straddling a 6-year-old girl in a South Los Angeles backyard last October pleaded guilty today to multiple counts of child molestation and was sentenced to 37 years in prison, the District Attorney's office announced.

Dennis Alan Martinez, 47, entered his plea to six counts of lewd act on a child involving six victims, said Deputy District Attorney Ann Marie Wise with the Sex Crimes Division. Before being sentenced by Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Michael Carter, Martinez told the judge he wanted to apologize to all the victims and their families. None of the victims or their families was present today.

Martinez was arrested Oct. 21, 2006 by LAPD a day after he approached a 6-year-old girl near the 49th Street Elementary School in the 800 block of East 49th Street. He took the girl into a backyard away from the school and took pictures of the little girl. He was chased away by two witnesses after they saw him lay on top of the girl.

Following an investigation, he was charged with multiple counts of child molestation and kidnapping involving six girls between the ages of 5 and 9 years old. The incidents occurred between April and October of last year.

In exchange for his plea in admitting six counts, eight other counts were dismissed.

jr

Please read our [Privacy Policy](#).

© 1994-2012 Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office. All Rights Reserved.



[Home](#)

[Crimes of Violence](#)

[Working With Communities](#)

[Fraud & Corruption](#)

[Search](#)

[Meet the D.A.](#)

[Top Documents](#)

[Victim Services](#)

[Consumer Alert](#)

[Bureau of Investigation](#)

[Criminal Justice Institute](#)

[Newsroom](#)

[Job Listings](#)

[Office Overview](#)

[History of the Office](#)

[Office Locations](#)

[Office Directory](#)

[FAQs](#)

[Board Correspondence](#)

[L.A. County Home Page](#)

[Contact Us](#)

ATTN: Assignment & News Editors Annual Courageous Citizen Awards

March 22, 2007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contacts: [Joe Scott](#), Director of Communications

[Sandi Gibbons](#), Public Information Officer

[Jane Robison](#), News Secretary

(213) 974-3525

Dist. Atty. Steve Cooley will honor three Courageous Citizens on Friday, March 23. The noon luncheon ceremony is hosted by the Rotary Club of Los Angeles. Event details are as follows:

Date: Friday, March 23, 2007

Time: 12:45 p.m. ceremony begins

Location: City Club on Bunker Hill
333 S. Grand Ave., 54th floor (Wells Fargo Tower)
Los Angeles

The honorees include a 26-year-old Los Angeles man who reported being solicited by his employer's wife to hire a hitman who would kill her elderly husband; and a 53-year-old Los Angeles man who intervened and pulled a knife-wielding assailant off the victim and held her down until a security guard arrived with handcuffs.

The D.A. is also giving a posthumous award to Debra Johnson, a witness to a brutal drug dispute who was attacked to try and stop her testimony. She survived the attack and testified, but tragically died of natural causes two months after the trial concluded. Johnson's brother and sister-in-law will accept the award.

CONTACT: Carol Baker, Shiara Davila, 213-974-7401.

jr

Please read our [Privacy Policy](#).



Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

[Home](#)

[Crimes of Violence](#)

[Working With Communities](#)

[Fraud & Corruption](#)

[Search](#)

[Meet the D.A.](#)

[Top Documents](#)

[Victim Services](#)

[Consumer Alert](#)

[Bureau of Investigation](#)

[Criminal Justice Institute](#)

[Newsroom](#)

[Job Listings](#)

[Office Overview](#)

[History of the Office](#)

[Office Locations](#)

[Office Directory](#)

[FAQs](#)

[Board Correspondence](#)

[L.A. County Home Page](#)

[Contact Us](#)

District Attorney Honors Courageous Citizens

March 23, 2007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contacts: [Joe Scott](#), Director of Communications

[Sandi Gibbons](#), Public Information Officer

[Jane Robison](#), News Secretary

(213) 974-3525

LOS ANGELES – Three individuals who exhibited acts of heroism and bravery were honored today by District Attorney Steve Cooley during the Courageous Citizens Awards Ceremony sponsored by the Rotary Club of Los Angeles.

"I want to thank our honorees," Cooley said during a ceremony at the City Club on Bunker Hill. "In pursuit of justice, you faced danger – even risking your own safety – to help catch criminals and stand up for victims. Today, we honor your heroism and applaud the selflessness and courage of your actions."

The District Attorney's Office created the Courageous Citizen Award in 1985 to commend those individuals who have acted at considerable personal risk to help a victim of crime, assist in the capture of a suspect, or testify in the face of extraordinary pressures.

The awards were presented to recipients nominated by deputy district attorneys. Honorees were (Information on each recipient follows.)

- **Chris Rodriguez, Los Angeles**

In December 2004, Chris, 26, reported a murder-for-hire plot to Torrance police. Chris had been solicited by his employer's significantly younger wife to hire a hitman who would kill her elderly husband.

While maintaining close contact with detectives over the course of several months, Chris pretended to go along with the woman's plan to kill her husband. But, the suspect did not stop at plotting her husband's murder. She also tried to arrange for a competing business to be burned to the ground and for a former employee to be kidnapped and raped.

Chris was able to play a key role in the investigation that led to Linda Gay Evans arrest and conviction. He captured 14 recordings of her plotting and scheming to commit murder, arson and assault. Evans pleaded guilty and was sentenced last year to 27 years in prison.

- Jorge Godoy, Los Angeles

In April 2006, Jorge, 53, was at a drugstore in South Los Angeles when he witnessed a brutal attack on a young woman by a knife-wielding female assailant. At one point, the victim broke free from her attacker and tried to run. But, she slipped and fell on her back.

As stunned bystanders looked on, Jorge pulled the assailant off of the victim and held her down until a security guard arrived with handcuffs. Defendant Tanya Hill has pleaded not guilty and is awaiting trial.

The young woman whose life Jorge saved, USC student Nicole Spirtos, has recovered from her injuries and will be at the ceremony.

- Debra Johnson, 45 (Posthumous)
- Michael and Zina Johnson, Compton

In the early morning hours of April 6, 2004 at a housing project in Watts, a dispute over drug proceeds culminated with the fatal shootings of two people.

The killers then allegedly concentrated on eliminating witnesses. One of those witnesses was Debra Johnson. She was shot twice at close range – once in the chest and once into her face. She almost didn't recover from the attack.

But Debra twice took the stand to ensure that justice was served. In July 2006, one of the defendants, Kai Harris, was convicted of murder. Tragically, Debra died of natural causes two months after the first trial concluded. Still, prosecutors plan to use the testimony of this uniquely compelling victim and witness as evidence against the second defendant, Donte McDaniel, at his upcoming trial.

Debra's brother, Michael, and his wife will be present to accept the award.

CONTACT: Carol Baker or Shiara Davila, 213-974-7401.

jr

Please read our [Privacy Policy](#).

© 1994-2012 Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office. All Rights Reserved.



[Home](#)

[Crimes of Violence](#)

[Working With Communities](#)

[Fraud & Corruption](#)

[Search](#)

[Meet the D.A.](#)

[Top Documents](#)

[Victim Services](#)

[Consumer Alert](#)

[Bureau of Investigation](#)

[Criminal Justice Institute](#)

[Newsroom](#)

[Job Listings](#)

[Office Overview](#)

[History of the Office](#)

[Office Locations](#)

[Office Directory](#)

[FAQs](#)

[Board Correspondence](#)

[L.A. County Home Page](#)

[Contact Us](#)

Jury Convicts Bell Gardens Council Member of Filing a False Police Report

March 23, 2007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contacts: [Joe Scott](#), Director of Communications

[Sandi Gibbons](#), Public Information Officer

[Jane Robison](#), News Secretary

(213) 974-3525

DOWNEY – A Bell Gardens council member was convicted by a Superior Court jury today of filing a false police report last summer after attending a party at a South Broadway club in Los Angeles.

The jury deliberated less than a day before convicting 29-year-old Mario Beltran of the single charge. Deputy District Attorney Maureen O'Brien of the Public Integrity Division said sentencing was scheduled for June 6. Beltran faces a possible maximum six-month jail term and a \$1,000 fine.

Evidence presented at the two-week trial was that Beltran filed a report with the Bell Gardens Police Department claiming that he had been the victim of a street robbery at 3 a.m. on June 28, 2006, in downtown Los Angeles.

After Los Angeles police investigated report and new evidence came to light in connection with a second investigation of an incident that occurred about the same time, the matter was turned over to the District Attorney's Office.

The single misdemeanor count was filed on Nov. 28, 2006.

The trial in Downey Superior Court was presided over by Judge Daniel J. Lowenthal.

sg

Please read our [Privacy Policy](#).

© 1994-2012 Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office. All Rights Reserved.



[Home](#)

[Crimes of Violence](#)

[Working With Communities](#)

[Fraud & Corruption](#)

[Search](#)

[Meet the D.A.](#)

[Top Documents](#)

[Victim Services](#)

[Consumer Alert](#)

[Bureau of Investigation](#)

[Criminal Justice Institute](#)

[Newsroom](#)

[Job Listings](#)

[Office Overview](#)

[History of the Office](#)

[Office Locations](#)

[Office Directory](#)

[FAQs](#)

[Board Correspondence](#)

[L.A. County Home Page](#)

[Contact Us](#)

Gang Member Convicted of Murdering 14-Year-Old Bicyclist

March 26, 2007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contacts: [Joe Scott](#), Director of Communications

[Sandi Gibbons](#), Public Information Officer

[Jane Robison](#), News Secretary

(213) 974-3525

LOS ANGELES – A jury deliberated a little more than four days before convicting a gang member today of murdering a 14-year-old boy who was gunned down while riding his bicycle near his home in South Los Angeles more than two years ago.

The Los Angeles Superior Court jury, which began its deliberations on March 20, convicted 21-year-old Fred Brown of one count of first-degree murder and two counts of attempted first-degree murder, along with gun use and gang allegations. He faces a possible maximum sentence of at least 100 years to life in prison when he returns to trial Judge Curtis Rappe's court on June 22.

Brown's co-defendant – David Michael Porter, also 21 – will be tried separately. His trial is scheduled to start on April 24.

Byron Lee, a Fremont High School freshman, was shot while riding his bicycle near his home on Oct. 9, 2004. The victim was not a gang member, said both authorities and the boy's mother, who the year before had lost another son to cancer.

Police said the boy was riding his bicycle near McKinley Avenue and 81st Street a little after 2 o'clock in the afternoon. A car containing two men followed him through an alley west of McKinley Avenue between 81st and 82nd streets. The men got out of the car and spoke to the victim – who was off his bicycle and on the ground on one knee, police said. Investigators said the men shot the boy 19 times, got back into their car and drove away, leaving Byron lying in the alley.

The shooting prompted a nationwide series of news stories about gang crime in Los Angeles. Brown and Porter were charged on Oct. 25, 2004, four days after Porter's arrest. Brown was arrested on Nov. 14, 2004.

Both defendants have remained in custody. Porter is being held without bail and bail for Brown was listed as \$5 million.

The attempted murder counts stemmed from two unrelated shootings on Sept. 9 and Oct. 7, 2004.

The cases are being prosecuted by Deputy District Attorney Dayan Mathai of the Hardcore Gang Division.

sg

Please read our [Privacy Policy](#).

© 1994-2012 Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office. All Rights Reserved.



Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

Home

Crimes of Violence

Working With Communities

Fraud & Corruption

Search

Meet the D.A.

Top Documents

Victim Services

Consumer Alert

Bureau of Investigation

Criminal Justice Institute

Newsroom

Job Listings

Office Overview

History of the Office

Office Locations

Office Directory

FAQs

Board Correspondence

L.A. County Home Page

Contact Us

Teen Charged with Murder in School Slaying

March 27, 2007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contacts: [Joe Scott](#), Director of Communications

[Sandi Gibbons](#), Public Information Officer

[Jane Robison](#), News Secretary

(213) 974-3525

INGLEWOOD – A 16-year-old Washington Preparatory High School student and an alleged gang member was charged today as adult with one count of murder following last week's fatal stabbing of a 17-year-old, the District Attorney's office announced.

Jesse Jonathan McDonald, (dob 5-9-1990), was charged in case No. YA067772 with a gang allegation, that the murder was committed to further a criminal street gang, and that he personally used a knife, said Deputy District Attorney Dara Williams with the Hardcore Gang Division. He is being held on \$1 million bail. Arraignment is scheduled for after 1:30 p.m. at Inglewood Superior Court, Dept. 5.

Authorities said an altercation between rival gang members a week earlier led to Friday's deadly confrontation at Washington Prep. McDonald and one other teen allegedly confronted Alex Contreras, a senior, and a fight erupted. McDonald allegedly pulled a knife and stabbed Contreras to death.

jr

Please read our [Privacy Policy](#).

© 1994-2012 Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office. All Rights Reserved.



Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

[Home](#)

[Crimes of Violence](#)

[Working With Communities](#)

[Fraud & Corruption](#)

[Search](#)

[Meet the D.A.](#)

[Top Documents](#)

[Victim Services](#)

[Consumer Alert](#)

[Bureau of Investigation](#)

[Criminal Justice Institute](#)

[Newsroom](#)

[Job Listings](#)

[Office Overview](#)

[History of the Office](#)

[Office Locations](#)

[Office Directory](#)

[FAQs](#)

[Board Correspondence](#)

[L.A. County Home Page](#)

[Contact Us](#)

Teacher Charged with Child Molestation of Two Teenage Girls

March 27, 2007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contacts: [Joe Scott](#), Director of Communications

[Sandi Gibbons](#), Public Information Officer

[Jane Robison](#), News Secretary

(213) 974-3525

LOS ANGELES – A teacher at an East Los Angeles middle school was charged by the District Attorney's Sex Crimes Division today with molesting two teenage girls in 2005 and 2006.

Antonio Gomez, 36 (dob 2-28-1971), was scheduled to appear in Division 30 of Los Angeles Superior Court for arraignment. He was freed after posting \$100,000 bail following his arrest by Los Angeles police on March 6.

Gomez was charged in case No. BA319474 with 11 counts of lewd act upon a child. Six of the counts alleged one victim, who the complaint stated was under the age of 14 when the crimes began. The complaint alleged those crimes occurred between Feb. 1, 2006, and Nov. 30, 2006. The remaining counts involved an alleged victim who the complaint said was "14 or 15." The complaint stated those crimes occurred between April 26 and June 30, 2005.

The complaint also recommended that bail for Gomez be increased to \$620,000.

In a press release issued on March 20, the Los Angeles Police Department identified Gomez as a teacher at Stevenson Middle School in East Los Angeles. Police said he lives in Downey.

Police detectives began their investigation of Gomez last month after alleged victims came forward, according to the LAPD press release.

Deputy District Attorney Lesley Klein of the Sex Crimes Division will prosecute the case.

sg

Please read our [Privacy Policy](#).

© 1994-2012 Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office. All Rights Reserved.



[Home](#)

[Crimes of Violence](#)

[Working With Communities](#)

[Fraud & Corruption](#)

[Search](#)

[Meet the D.A.](#)

[Top Documents](#)

[Victim Services](#)

[Consumer Alert](#)

[Bureau of Investigation](#)

[Criminal Justice Institute](#)

[Newsroom](#)

[Job Listings](#)

[Office Overview](#)

[History of the Office](#)

[Office Locations](#)

[Office Directory](#)

[FAQs](#)

[Board Correspondence](#)

[L.A. County Home Page](#)

[Contact Us](#)

Attn: Assignment Editors

Mexico Extradites Long Sought Convicted Criminal

March 29, 2007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contacts: [Joe Scott](#), Director of Communications

[Sandi Gibbons](#), Public Information Officer

[Jane Robison](#), News Secretary

(213) 974-3525

District Attorney Steve Cooley will hold a news conference at 11 a.m. tomorrow (Friday, March 30, 2007) to announce the extradition from Mexico of a man who was convicted "in absentia" for trying to kill his estranged wife. He is suspected of killing his father-in-law during the 1999 trial, then fleeing to Mexico.

Joining Cooley at the news conference will be San Bernardino County District Attorney Mike Ramos; Fontana Police Chief Larry Clark; Guillermo Fonseca of the Mexican attorney general's office; John Clark, chief inspector for the U. S. Marshals Service; Tom Hession, U.S. Marshals Service; Aldran Lee, Chief Deputy of the U.S. Marshals Service; retired South Gate Police detective Richard Wade; and Anabella Vara, the attempted murder victim, and her family.

The news conference will be in the District Attorney's 18th Floor Conference room, Criminal Justice Center, 210 W. Temple St., Los Angeles.

The District Attorney's office will have someone available for Spanish-language interviews.

Contact: Sandi Gibbons, 213-974-3528.

sg

Please read our [Privacy Policy](#).

© 1994-2012 Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office. All Rights Reserved.



Home

Crimes of Violence

Working With Communities

Fraud & Corruption

Search

Meet the D.A.

Top Documents

Victim Services

Consumer Alert

Bureau of Investigation

Criminal Justice Institute

Newsroom

Job Listings

Office Overview

History of the Office

Office Locations

Office Directory

FAQs

Board Correspondence

L.A. County Home Page

Contact Us

D.A.'s Website Instrumental in Successful Mexican Extradition of Man Convicted of Trying to Kill His Estranged Wife & Suspected of Murdering Her Father

March 30, 2007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contacts: [Joe Scott](#), Director of Communications

[Sandi Gibbons](#), Public Information Officer

[Jane Robison](#), News Secretary

(213) 974-3525



Anabella Vara speaks at a press conference announcing the extradition of her ex-husband from Mexico. She is flanked by Los Angeles County District Attorney Steve Cooley (right) and San Bernardino County District Attorney Mike Ramos (left). Photo by John R. Stephens.

LOS ANGELES – District Attorney Steve Cooley credited the www.escapingjustice.com website today with leading to the eventual capture in Mexico of Daniel Perez, convicted in absentia in 1999 of trying to kill his wife and suspected of murdering her father after he testified for the prosecution at Perez's trial in Norwalk.

"Daniel Perez has not escaped justice," Cooley said at a news conference. "He was returned to Los Angeles from Mexico City yesterday. He will not only

serve the life sentence already imposed by the court in Norwalk for attempted murder of Anabella Vara, he also will be tried by District Attorney Mike Ramos in San Bernardino County for the murder of her father."

Cooley noted that in April 2005, an informant contacted escapingjustice.com and said that Perez was living in Mexico under an assumed name. In October 2001, the Mexican Supreme Court had ruled that there would be no extraditions for those facing life prison terms, preventing extraditions of what authorities believe are hundreds of criminals who escaped to Mexico to avoid prosecution. Because Perez already had been tried in absentia and sentenced to what amounted to two life prison terms, there was little authorities could do at the time.

But the informant kept in touch with the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office. And on Nov. 29, 2005, the Mexican Supreme Court reversed its ruling. The Los Angeles County District Attorney's office began to submit requests for provisional arrest. The Perez request, one of the first, went out on Dec. 7, 2005. He was arrested on Jan. 24, 2006, and has remained in custody in Mexico City during the appellate process.

Perez's lost his final appeal on March 23. He surrendered to the U.S. Marshals Service yesterday and was flown back to Los Angeles.

Cooley said the first face Perez saw when he was escorted off the airplane yesterday was that of retired Detective Richard Wade of the South Gate Police Department. Wade worked on the original case and for the past eight years has provided protection for Anabella Vara and her family. He also drafted the investigator's affidavit for the formal extradition.

Wade and Anabella Vara were at the news conference along with San Bernardino County District Attorney Mike Ramos, who will try Perez for murdering Carlos Vara, 47, on Aug. 28, 1999, a day after he testified for the prosecution at the Norwalk trial.

"This demonstrates that it is never too late to get justice for victims and their families. If you commit a murder in San Bernardino County, we're going to come after you," Ramos said.

"I applaud the efforts of law enforcement and the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office in the resolution of this matter. I especially want to commend Steve Cooley for taking the lead on this issue when Mexican law changed and allowed for the extradition of murderers facing life terms," Ramos added.

Cooley said Perez's extradition was the result of cooperative work between his office and the San Bernardino County District Attorney's Office.

"In July 2006, my office provided a three-hour international issues training seminar for San Bernardino County police and prosecutors. My office assisted in the drafting of their extradition documents. This extradition was a joint effort by both offices and I want to commend them for their efforts."

Perez, 35, was free on \$1 million bail during the August 1999 jury trial before Superior Court Judge Peter Espinoza in Norwalk. The day after Carlos Vara,

47, testified at the trial, he was shot to death at his home in Fontana. Perez did not show up in court the next day and the judge ruled that the trial would continue in his absence.

Anabella Vara already had begun testifying before her father was murdered. She finished the next day, describing how her husband stalked and kidnapped her on April 9, 1999. He held her at gunpoint several hours until she agreed to return to their home in Long Beach in a ruse that she hoped would allow her to escape.

Perez let her drive her own car. He was in his car and she was to follow him. Instead, she used her cell phone to call 911 and tried to flee. What followed was a wild car chase through South Gate that ended with a traffic collision. Anabella Vara said Perez came to her car and shot her in the head. She survived the through-and-through bullet wound.

The jury deliberated less than half a day on Aug. 31, 1999, before convicting Perez of one count each of attempted first-degree murder, corporal injury to a spouse, kidnapping, false imprisonment by violence and stalking. The jury also found that the Perez used a handgun to commit the crimes. On Oct. 26, 1999, Perez was sentenced to 33 years and eight months to life in prison plus life. The sentence amounted to two life terms.

Also attending the news conference with Chief Deputy Aldran Lee of the U.S. Marshals Service, John Clark and John Hession of the U.S. Marshals Service, Fontana Police Chief Larry Clark and Guillermo Fonseca of the Mexican Attorney General's Office.

sg

Please read our [Privacy Policy](#).

© 1994-2012 Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office. All Rights Reserved.



Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

[Home](#)

[Crimes of Violence](#)

[Working With Communities](#)

[Fraud & Corruption](#)

[Search](#)

[Meet the D.A.](#)

[Top Documents](#)

[Victim Services](#)

[Consumer Alert](#)

[Bureau of Investigation](#)

[Criminal Justice Institute](#)

[Newsroom](#)

[Job Listings](#)

[Office Overview](#)

[History of the Office](#)

[Office Locations](#)

[Office Directory](#)

[FAQs](#)

[Board Correspondence](#)

[L.A. County Home Page](#)

[Contact Us](#)

Gene Therapy Pioneer Sentenced to 14 Years in Prison for Child Molestation

February 2, 2007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contacts: [Joe Scott](#), Director of Communications

[Sandi Gibbons](#), Public Information Officer

[Jane Robison](#), News Secretary

(213) 974-3525

LOS ANGELES – A nationally-known gene therapy scientist convicted last year of molesting a young girl over a three-year period beginning in 1999 was sentenced today to 14 years in state prison.

In addition, Superior Court Judge Michael Pastor ordered William French Anderson, 70, to pay more than \$52,000 to the victim and her family for therapy and an additional \$16,000 in fines to state restitution funds.

A jury in July convicted Anderson of one count of continuous sexual abuse and three counts of lewd act upon a child under the age of 14.

"Today, I live with the pain of what he did to me," the victim, now 19, told the court before Anderson was sentenced. "It didn't just end after he took away any chance of having a normal childhood. It didn't just end when he tried to rip apart my family. It didn't just end when I was on the edge of suicide in high school. It didn't just end when I finally went to the police, or when he was convicted, and it isn't going to just end today. I am going to have to live with this – what he did to me – every day for the rest of my life."

Deputy District Attorneys Cathryn Brougham and James Garrison of the Major Crimes Division presented evidence that Anderson became the girl's mentor and coached her in Karate. The molestations, starting when the victim was 10 years old, occurred at Anderson's San Marino home, the prosecutors said.

The victim and the defendant both testified at trial. The victim's mother was a colleague of Anderson's at USC.

Anderson was arrested on July 30, 2004, when search warrants were served at his home and his office in the Gene Therapy Laboratories at USC.

Anderson at the time was director of the Gene Therapy Laboratories at the USC Keck School of Medicine.

jr

Please read our [Privacy Policy](#).

© 1994-2012 Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office. All Rights Reserved.



Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

[Home](#)

[Crimes of Violence](#)

[Working With Communities](#)

[Fraud & Corruption](#)

[Search](#)

[Meet the D.A.](#)

[Top Documents](#)

[Victim Services](#)

[Consumer Alert](#)

[Bureau of Investigation](#)

[Criminal Justice Institute](#)

[Newsroom](#)

[Job Listings](#)

[Office Overview](#)

[History of the Office](#)

[Office Locations](#)

[Office Directory](#)

[FAQs](#)

[Board Correspondence](#)

[L.A. County Home Page](#)

[Contact Us](#)

Extradition Sought for Woman and Her Mother Charged in Welfare Fraud Case

February 5, 2007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contacts: [Joe Scott](#), Director of Communications

[Sandi Gibbons](#), Public Information Officer

[Jane Robison](#), News Secretary

(213) 974-3525

LOS ANGELES – The District Attorney's office announced today it is seeking extradition of a woman and her mother who were arrested in Maryland and Texas last week on felony warrants charging them with grand theft and perjury in a child care and welfare fraud case in Los Angeles County.

The younger of the two women was identified in news stories in 1998 as serving a federal person term for being convicted of trying to extort \$40 million from entertainer Bill Cosby.

Autumn Jaquel Williams, also known as Autmn (cq) Jaquel Jackson, 32 (dob 8-20-1974), and her mother, Shawn Renee Upshaw, also known as Shawn Byers and Shawn Brown, 54 (dob 9-19-1952), were arrested last Thursday. Williams was taken into custody in Maryland and Upshaw in Texas.

Deputy District Attorney James Baker of the Welfare Fraud Division said extradition for both women is being sought. Williams is in custody in Rockville, MD, on \$110,000 bail. Upshaw is being held in San Antonio, Texas, on \$95,000 bail.

In a felony complaint for arrest warrant (BA315730) filed on Jan. 19, the women were accused of grand theft and multiple counts of perjury in connection with allegedly illegally collecting nearly \$40,000 between 2001 and 2003. Williams additionally is charged with one felony count of aid by misrepresentation, a violation of Section 10980(c)(2) of the California Welfare and Institutions Code.

Baker said the women are accused of submitting false employment verifications to qualify for child care benefits.

The case was investigated by the District Attorney's Bureau of Investigation and the county Department of Public Social Services.

sg

Please read our [Privacy Policy](#).

© 1994-2012 Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office. All Rights Reserved.



[Home](#)

[Crimes of Violence](#)

[Working With Communities](#)

[Fraud & Corruption](#)

[Search](#)

[Meet the D.A.](#)

[Top Documents](#)

[Victim Services](#)

[Consumer Alert](#)

[Bureau of Investigation](#)

[Criminal Justice Institute](#)

[Newsroom](#)

[Job Listings](#)

[Office Overview](#)

[History of the Office](#)

[Office Locations](#)

[Office Directory](#)

[FAQs](#)

[Board Correspondence](#)

[L.A. County Home Page](#)

[Contact Us](#)

Pair Charged with Impersonating an Officer and Robbery

February 6, 2007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contacts: [Joe Scott](#), Director of Communications

[Sandi Gibbons](#), Public Information Officer

[Jane Robison](#), News Secretary

(213) 974-3525

LOS ANGELES – Two men were charged today with allegedly impersonating an officer and robbing a street vendor, the District Attorney's office announced.

Jeron Desmond Jackson, 25 (dob 12-30-81), and John Bernard Shepherd, 32 (dob 9-18-78), were charged in case No. BA316710 with one count each of felony second degree robbery and misdemeanor impersonating an officer. A third suspect, Andre Rennell Hadden, 41 (dob 9-2-65), was charged with one felony count of carrying a loaded, unregistered firearm, said Deputy District Attorney Scott Goodwin, assistant head deputy of Complaints Division.

All three are scheduled to be arraigned this afternoon at the Foltz Criminal Justice Center, Div. 30.

Jackson and Shepherd, wearing private security uniforms with a patch that said "Los Angeles Housing Authority," allegedly approached a street vendor on Jan. 29 and asked if the man had a permit to sell food. The two men then allegedly seized a box with the victim's money. Jackson and Hadden allegedly approached the same victim on Feb. 1.

The Los Angeles Housing Authority police ceased to exist several years ago. Police said "private security" was allegedly blacked out on their uniforms.

Jackson and Shepherd were being held on \$52,500 bail each. Hadden was being held on \$35,000 bail.

jr

Please read our [Privacy Policy](#).

© 1994-2012 Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office. All Rights Reserved.



[Home](#)

[Crimes of Violence](#)

[Working With Communities](#)

[Fraud & Corruption](#)

[Search](#)

[Meet the D.A.](#)

[Top Documents](#)

[Victim Services](#)

[Consumer Alert](#)

[Bureau of Investigation](#)

[Criminal Justice Institute](#)

[Newsroom](#)

[Job Listings](#)

[Office Overview](#)

[History of the Office](#)

[Office Locations](#)

[Office Directory](#)

[FAQs](#)

[Board Correspondence](#)

[L.A. County Home Page](#)

[Contact Us](#)

ATTN: News & Assignment Editors Press Availability Anti-Truancy Symposium

February 7, 2007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contacts: [Joe Scott](#), Director of Communications

[Sandi Gibbons](#), Public Information Officer

[Jane Robison](#), News Secretary

(213) 974-3525

On Thursday, Feb. 8, at 11:30 a.m., Dist. Atty. Steve Cooley and Christopher Gardner, whose autobiography "The Pursuit of Happyness" inspired the movie starring Will Smith, will hold a press availability to discuss a countywide anti-truancy symposium.

Gardner is the keynote speaker for Thursday's daylong symposium sponsored by the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office, the Los Angeles City Attorney's Office, the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, the Los Angeles Unified School District, the Los Angeles County Probation Department, the Los Angeles County Office of Education and the Los Angeles County Superior Courts.

More than 500 educators are scheduled to attend to discuss the links between chronic truancy and gangs, how to better track truancy and innovative programs to keep students in school.

The 11:30 a.m. press availability with Cooley and Gardner will be at California State University, Los Angeles, on the 2nd floor at the Golden Eagle Reception Center. Cal State L.A. is located at 5151 State University Drive

Gardner's noon speech inside the Golden Eagle Reception Center on the 3rd floor also will be open to the media.

CONTACT: Jane Robison, 213-974-3528; or Carol Baker, 213-974-7401.

jr

Please read our [Privacy Policy](#).

© 1994-2012 Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office. All Rights Reserved.



Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

[Home](#)

[Crimes of Violence](#)

[Working With Communities](#)

[Fraud & Corruption](#)

[Search](#)

[Meet the D.A.](#)

[Top Documents](#)

[Victim Services](#)

[Consumer Alert](#)

[Bureau of Investigation](#)

[Criminal Justice Institute](#)

[Newsroom](#)

[Job Listings](#)

[Office Overview](#)

[History of the Office](#)

[Office Locations](#)

[Office Directory](#)

[FAQs](#)

[Board Correspondence](#)

[L.A. County Home Page](#)

[Contact Us](#)

Former King/Drew Radiologist Pleads Guilty to Tax Evasion

February 7, 2007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contacts: [Joe Scott](#), Director of Communications

[Sandi Gibbons](#), Public Information Officer

[Jane Robison](#), News Secretary

(213) 974-3525

LOS ANGELES – A former radiologist at King/Drew Medical Center pleaded guilty today to one count of failure to pay state taxes for 2004 when he worked at the county hospital in South Los Angeles, the District Attorney's office announced.

Deputy District Attorney Juliet Schmidt of the Public Integrity Division said Dr. Harold Austin Tate, 47, was immediately sentenced by Los Angeles Superior Court Judge David Horwitz to three years probation. Tate was also sentenced to pay \$35,138 to the Franchise Tax Board for back taxes and the cost of the investigation and to pay \$10,000 in fines.

The Public Integrity Division launched an investigation after the Audit and Compliance Division of the Department of Health Services referred the matter amid allegations Tate reported working more hours at King/Drew than he actually did. Tate was employed by Reliable Health Care Services of Culver City, which was under contract by Los Angeles County to provide specialty services at King/Drew.

The investigation showed that the hospital required its radiologists to reside on-site on a 24-hour basis. Hospital officials also reported that the productivity of Tate, who worked at King/Drew from 1999 to 2005, was higher than any of the other radiologists. The investigation also showed his time cards were approved by the appropriate hospital personnel.

Although no criminal charges stemmed from the inquiry into the hours that Tate worked, the investigation by the District Attorney's Bureau of Investigation and the California Franchise Tax Board resulted in the one count of tax evasion filed last September.

jr

Please read our [Privacy Policy](#).

© 1994-2012 Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office. All Rights Reserved.



[Home](#)

[Crimes of Violence](#)

[Working With Communities](#)

[Fraud & Corruption](#)

[Search](#)

[Meet the D.A.](#)

[Top Documents](#)

[Victim Services](#)

[Consumer Alert](#)

[Bureau of Investigation](#)

[Criminal Justice Institute](#)

[Newsroom](#)

[Job Listings](#)

[Office Overview](#)

[History of the Office](#)

[Office Locations](#)

[Office Directory](#)

[FAQs](#)

[Board Correspondence](#)

[L.A. County Home Page](#)

[Contact Us](#)

Grandson Sentenced 25-Years-To-Life for Grandmother's Murder

February 7, 2007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contacts: [Joe Scott](#), Director of Communications

[Sandi Gibbons](#), Public Information Officer

[Jane Robison](#), News Secretary

(213) 974-3525

LANCASTER – A 26-year-old Palmdale man was sentenced today to life in prison with the possibility of parole for murdering his grandmother nearly three years ago.

Deputy District Attorney Kelly Cromer said Leonel Roberto Moncada was sentenced by Antelope Valley Superior Court Judge Carol Koppell to 25 years to life for first-degree murder and an additional three years for violating probation.

A jury in Judge Koppell's court convicted Moncada last month. In a separate trial, the same jury determined that the defendant was sane at the time murder was committed.

Elvira Diaz, 78, was killed on May 28, 2004. She was beaten and her throat was slashed.

Moncada, who originally called Sheriff's deputies, said he had come home to find his grandmother dead. He was alleged after questioning and has been in custody on \$1 million bail since his arrest shortly after his grandmother was killed in Palmdale.

sg

Please read our [Privacy Policy](#).

© 1994-2012 Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office. All Rights Reserved.



Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

[Home](#)

[Crimes of Violence](#)

[Working With Communities](#)

[Fraud & Corruption](#)

[Search](#)

[Meet the D.A.](#)

[Top Documents](#)

[Victim Services](#)

[Consumer Alert](#)

[Bureau of Investigation](#)

[Criminal Justice Institute](#)

[Newsroom](#)

[Job Listings](#)

[Office Overview](#)

[History of the Office](#)

[Office Locations](#)

[Office Directory](#)

[FAQs](#)

[Board Correspondence](#)

[L.A. County Home Page](#)

[Contact Us](#)

Richie Charged with Misdemeanor DUI

February 16, 2007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contacts: [Joe Scott](#), Director of Communications

[Sandi Gibbons](#), Public Information Officer

[Jane Robison](#), News Secretary

(213) 974-3525

GLENDALE – Nicole Richie, who stars with Paris Hilton on the television show "The Simple Life," was charged today with one count of misdemeanor DUI, the District Attorney's office announced.

Arraignment for the 25-year-old is set for Feb. 21 in Department 1 of Glendale Superior Court, said Deputy District Attorney Edwin Greene, deputy in charge of the Glendale office. Because it is a misdemeanor count, Richie will not have to appear in court for arraignment.

Richie was arrested by California Highway Patrol officers after she was allegedly driving the wrong way on the 134 Freeway in Burbank in the early morning hours of Dec. 11. Motorists had reported that a sport utility vehicle was traveling east in the westbound lanes of the 134 Freeway, near the Buena Vista Street entrance in Burbank, the CHP said. When officers arrived, they found Richie had stopped in the carpool lane and was the lone occupant of the vehicle. She is charged with being under the influence of "an alcoholic beverage and a drug." The drug was not specified in case No. 7GN01001.

The complaint also alleged that Richie had a prior misdemeanor DUI conviction in June 2003. It listed the case number as 2WL02649.

jr/sg

Please read our [Privacy Policy](#).

© 1994-2012 Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office. All Rights Reserved.



Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

Home

Crimes of Violence

Working With Communities

Fraud & Corruption

Search

Meet the D.A.

Top Documents

Victim Services

Consumer Alert

Bureau of Investigation

Criminal Justice Institute

Newsroom

Job Listings

Office Overview

History of the Office

Office Locations

Office Directory

FAQs

Board Correspondence

L.A. County Home Page

Contact Us

Attn: Assignment & News Editors Pasadena Courageous Citizen Awards

February 20, 2007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contacts: [Joe Scott](#), Director of Communications

[Sandi Gibbons](#), Public Information Officer

[Jane Robison](#), News Secretary

(213) 974-3525

On Wednesday, Feb. 21, Dist. Atty. Steve Cooley will honor four Courageous Citizens who assisted on three cases. The luncheon ceremony will be hosted by the Rotary Club of Pasadena. Details of the event are as follows:

Date: Wednesday, Feb. 21, 2007

Time: 12:00 p.m. Luncheon

12:45 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. Awards ceremony

Location: The Pasadena Hilton

168 S. Los Robles Ave.

Pasadena

Honorees include three San Gabriel Valley residents including a 74-year-old Azusa woman who was the victim of a residential robbery targeting the elderly; a Covina man who reported a case of animal cruelty involving a horse; and a Claremont couple who intervened when someone tried to run over a homeless man.

CONTACT: Carol Baker or Shiara Davila, 213-974-7401.

jr

Please read our [Privacy Policy](#).

© 1994-2012 Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office. All Rights Reserved.



Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

[Home](#)

[Crimes of Violence](#)

[Working With Communities](#)

[Fraud & Corruption](#)

[Search](#)

[Meet the D.A.](#)

[Top Documents](#)

[Victim Services](#)

[Consumer Alert](#)

[Bureau of Investigation](#)

[Criminal Justice Institute](#)

[Newsroom](#)

[Job Listings](#)

[Office Overview](#)

[History of the Office](#)

[Office Locations](#)

[Office Directory](#)

[FAQs](#)

[Board Correspondence](#)

[L.A. County Home Page](#)

[Contact Us](#)

District Attorney Honors Courageous Citizens

February 21, 2007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contacts: [Joe Scott](#), Director of Communications

[Sandi Gibbons](#), Public Information Officer

[Jane Robison](#), News Secretary

(213) 974-3525

PASADENA – Four individuals who exhibited acts of heroism and bravery were honored today by District Attorney Steve Cooley during the Courageous Citizens Awards Ceremony sponsored by the Rotary Club of Pasadena.

The District Attorney's Office created the Courageous Citizen Award in 1985 to commend those individuals who have acted at considerable personal risk to help a victim of crime, assist in the capture of a suspect, or testify in the face of extraordinary pressures.

The awards were presented to recipients nominated by deputy district attorneys. Honorees were (Information on each recipient follows.)

- Eula Weir, Azusa

Eula Weir is 74, lives alone and is wheelchair bound. On Jan. 27, 2005, a woman posing as an old acquaintance came to her door and distracted Weir while the woman's male accomplice snuck into the home. The culprits stole more than \$1,000 in jewelry.

Weir's precise recollections and preservation of physical evidence enabled police to link the suspects to a string of burglaries in the area. In May 2006, the female defendant, Maria Miguel, pleaded guilty to multiple counts of residential burglary and was sentenced to 29 years in state prison. The male co-defendant, Peter Phoenix, a three-striker, was convicted and sentenced to 144 years in state prison.

- Frank Leyva, Covina

In the summer of 2005, Leyva reported that a 30-year-old Arabian horse, Diamond, was emaciated beyond recognition. Leyva had

repeatedly warned the horse's owner, Clarence Johns, and its caretaker, Cesar Casillas, a Sheriff's deputy, that if Diamond did not receive proper care, he would die. Others had felt intimidated into not reporting conditions because Casillas was a deputy. Ultimately, Diamond was put down.

Because Leyva reported the abuse, Johns and Casillas were ultimately sentenced to probation, fined and ordered to do community service. Casillas is no longer a member of the Sheriff's Department. The men were also ordered to take part in a counseling program against animal cruelty.

- Richard and Carol Viselli, Claremont

On July 8, 2006, Richardi, 55, and his wife, Carol, 54, were at a gas station when they witnessed the driver of a sports utility vehicle try to run down a homeless man not once, but three times. The driver then fled. Carol immediately dialed 911 to report the assault. The Visellis then went to the aid of the man who was injured and bleeding.

Thanks in part to their cooperation and testimony in court, Christopher James Sloat was convicted and sentenced on Nov. 2 to 13 years in state prison.

CONTACT: Shiara Davila or Carol Baker, 213-974-7401.

jr

Please read our [Privacy Policy](#).

© 1994-2012 Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office. All Rights Reserved.



Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

[Home](#)

[Crimes of Violence](#)

[Working With Communities](#)

[Fraud & Corruption](#)

[Search](#)

[Meet the D.A.](#)

[Top Documents](#)

[Victim Services](#)

[Consumer Alert](#)

[Bureau of Investigation](#)

[Criminal Justice Institute](#)

[Newsroom](#)

[Job Listings](#)

[Office Overview](#)

[History of the Office](#)

[Office Locations](#)

[Office Directory](#)

[FAQs](#)

[Board Correspondence](#)

[L.A. County Home Page](#)

[Contact Us](#)

Three Charged in Alleged Plot to Prevent Testimony of Rape Victim Ordered to Stand Trial

February 21, 2007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contacts: [Joe Scott](#), Director of Communications

[Sandi Gibbons](#), Public Information Officer

[Jane Robison](#), News Secretary

(213) 974-3525

LOS ANGELES – A private investigator, the owner of a real estate firm and a third man were ordered today to stand trial on conspiracy and offering to bribe a witness in an alleged plot to prevent a rape victim from testifying against the businessman's son.

Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Lance Ito ruled after a preliminary hearing that there was sufficient evidence against the trio for the case to proceed to trial. The defendants were ordered to return to court on March 9 for arraignment.

Criminal charges were filed on June 8, 2006, against Bradley Gregory Miller, 46, the private investigator; George Izquierdo, 59, owner of Las Casas Reality; and Camilo Valentin, 30, who worked for Izquierdo. Each was charged with one count of conspiracy to obstruct justice and three counts of offering to bribe a witness. It was alleged the crimes occurred between Feb. 1 and March 10, 2005.

The case involves an alleged attempt to prevent a woman from testifying against Alex Javier Izquierdo, 29, who is charged with rape, torture and other crimes. The trial of Alex Izquierdo is pending in Superior Court in Pasadena. A pretrial hearing is scheduled for March 7.

The victim in the Pasadena case started testifying at a preliminary hearing in early 2005. The hearing was postponed about two weeks. When it resumed, the victim could not be found. Miller and the others were accused of taking the victim out of town and paying her to keep her from testifying.

Deputy District Attorney Frank M. Tavelman is prosecuting the case, which was investigated by the District Attorney's Bureau of Investigation.

sg

Please read our [Privacy Policy](#).

© 1994-2012 Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office. All Rights Reserved.



[Home](#)

[Crimes of Violence](#)

[Working With Communities](#)

[Fraud & Corruption](#)

[Search](#)

[Meet the D.A.](#)

[Top Documents](#)

[Victim Services](#)

[Consumer Alert](#)

[Bureau of Investigation](#)

[Criminal Justice Institute](#)

[Newsroom](#)

[Job Listings](#)

[Office Overview](#)

[History of the Office](#)

[Office Locations](#)

[Office Directory](#)

[FAQs](#)

[Board Correspondence](#)

[L.A. County Home Page](#)

[Contact Us](#)

Five Alleged Gang Members Charged with Murdering Witness in Harbor Gateway Killing

February 23, 2007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contacts: [Joe Scott](#), Director of Communications

[Sandi Gibbons](#), Public Information Officer

[Jane Robison](#), News Secretary

(213) 974-3525

LONG BEACH – The District Attorney's Office announced today that five men – including one already charged with fatally shooting 14-year-old Cheryl Greene – have been charged with murdering a man they believed was a witness in the girl's killing.

The capital murder case against the alleged gang members was filed on Tuesday as a felony complaint for arrest warrant. The last of the defendants was arrested last night and most – if not all – are expected to be arraigned on Monday in Department K of Long Beach Superior Court.

The defendants are charged with murdering Christopher Ash, 25, an acquaintance, on Dec. 28. The victim's body was found lying in the middle of a street in Carson. He had been stabbed numerous times and his throat was cut, authorities said.

One of the defendants already charged in the Greene murder – 18-year-old Jonathan Fajardo (dob 4-7-1988) – was charged in the new case along with Jose Covarrubias, 20 (dob 6-3-1986); Robert Gonzalez, 29 (dob 8-5-1977); Raul Silva, 31 (dob 9-23-1975); and Daniel Aguilar, 19 (dob 4-19-1987). All were identified by authorities as gang members.

Each is accused of one count of murder with the special circumstances of intentional murder of a witness to a crime, lying in wait, that the defendants were active participants in a criminal street gang and the murder was carried out to further the activities of the gang. The complaint alleged that Covarrubias and Gonzales personally used a knife to commit the murder.

A decision of whether to seek the death penalty against any or all of the defendants will be made by the District Attorney's Office as the case moves closer to trial.

Fajardo, Gonzalez and Aguilar were in custody when the case was filed. Fajardo and 20-year-old Ernesto Alcaez are charged with the hate crime murder of Greene, who was killed on Dec. 15 when the defendants allegedly walked up to a residence in the Harbor Gateway area and opened fire. Both are scheduled to be arraigned on March 8 in Long Beach Superior Court. Gonzalez and Aguilar were in custody on unrelated matters.

Covarrubias was taken into custody in Iowa shortly after the arrest warrant was issued. He has waived extradition. Silva was arrested by Sheriff's homicide investigators last night.

The case was filed by Deputy District Attorney John Allen Ramseyer of the Hate Crimes Unit of the Organized Crime Division. Ramseyer also is prosecuting the Greene murder case.

Please read our [Privacy Policy](#).

© 1994-2012 Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office. All Rights Reserved.



Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

[Home](#)

[Crimes of Violence](#)

[Working With Communities](#)

[Fraud & Corruption](#)

[Search](#)

[Meet the D.A.](#)

[Top Documents](#)

[Victim Services](#)

[Consumer Alert](#)

[Bureau of Investigation](#)

[Criminal Justice Institute](#)

[Newsroom](#)

[Job Listings](#)

[Office Overview](#)

[History of the Office](#)

[Office Locations](#)

[Office Directory](#)

[FAQs](#)

[Board Correspondence](#)

[L.A. County Home Page](#)

[Contact Us](#)

Former Chatsworth Teacher Sentenced to 10-Year Prison Term

February 26, 2007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contacts: [Joe Scott](#), Director of Communications

[Sandi Gibbons](#), Public Information Officer

[Jane Robison](#), News Secretary

(213) 974-3525

VAN NUYS – A former computer teacher at a Chatsworth private school has been sentenced to a 10-year term in state prison for child molestation, the District Attorney's Office announced today.

Deputy District Attorney Isidoro Baly said 33-year-old Thomas Edward Jukes was sentenced on Friday in Van Nuys Superior Court.

Jukes pleaded no contest on Dec. 20 to two counts of continuous sexual abuse of two boys under the age of 14. Besides the 10-year prison term, the defendant must register as a sex offender.

The defendant was arrested on April 27, 2006, by the FBI's Sexual Assault Felony Enforcement (SAFE) team and initially freed on \$100,000 bail. He was charged by the District Attorney's office less than a month later and bail was increased to \$535,000. He has remained in custody since May 16, 2006.

When the defendant's arrest was announced by the FBI last spring, a press release issued by that office stated that Jukes had been relieved from his teaching job at Sierra Canyon School. Prosecutors said after the case was filed that none of the molestations occurred at the school.

The FBI's SAFE team is a task force focusing on sex crimes against children. Members include the Los Angeles Police Department, the Los Angeles and Orange county Sheriff's departments, the state Department of Justice's Bureau of Investigation, the California Highway Patrol and the U.S. Attorney and District Attorney offices.

sg

Please read our [Privacy Policy](#).

© 1994-2012 Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office. All Rights Reserved.



Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

[Home](#)

[Crimes of Violence](#)

[Working With Communities](#)

[Fraud & Corruption](#)

[Search](#)

[Meet the D.A.](#)

[Top Documents](#)

[Victim Services](#)

[Consumer Alert](#)

[Bureau of Investigation](#)

[Criminal Justice Institute](#)

[Newsroom](#)

[Job Listings](#)

[Office Overview](#)

[History of the Office](#)

[Office Locations](#)

[Office Directory](#)

[FAQs](#)

[Board Correspondence](#)

[L.A. County Home Page](#)

[Contact Us](#)

Attorney Sentenced in Theft Case

February 27, 2007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contacts: [Joe Scott](#), Director of Communications

[Sandi Gibbons](#), Public Information Officer

[Jane Robison](#), News Secretary

(213) 974-3525

LOS ANGELES – An attorney who pleaded guilty to grand theft of personal property was sentenced today to perform 500 hours of community services as part of a three-year probationary term.

Deputy District Attorney Shannon Presby of the Justice System Integrity Division said Bryan Daniel Kamenetz, 36, made full restitution of a little more than \$19,000. He also was sentenced to four days in jail and given credit for four days served, meaning he does not have to do any further time behind bars.

Kamenetz and former attorney Steven Unger, 48, were charged in 2005. Unger pleaded guilty to conspiracy to commit the unauthorized practice of law and grand theft. He was sentenced last year to a 16-month state prison term.

A similar conspiracy charge against Kamenetz was dismissed at time of sentencing.

When the pair was charged in 2005, prosecutors said that Kamenetz took over Unger's law office when the other man resigned from the California State Bar with charges pending in February 2002. It was alleged that Unger continued to represent five clients after he resigned from the state bar.

sg

Please read our [Privacy Policy](#).

© 1994-2012 Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office. All Rights Reserved.



[Home](#)

[Crimes of Violence](#)

[Working With Communities](#)

[Fraud & Corruption](#)

[Search](#)

[Meet the D.A.](#)

[Top Documents](#)

[Victim Services](#)

[Consumer Alert](#)

[Bureau of Investigation](#)

[Criminal Justice Institute](#)

[Newsroom](#)

[Job Listings](#)

[Office Overview](#)

[History of the Office](#)

[Office Locations](#)

[Office Directory](#)

[FAQs](#)

[Board Correspondence](#)

[L.A. County Home Page](#)

[Contact Us](#)

High School Teacher Charged with Child Molestation

February 27, 2007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contacts: [Joe Scott](#), Director of Communications

[Sandi Gibbons](#), Public Information Officer

[Jane Robison](#), News Secretary

(213) 974-3525

POMONA – An English teacher at South Hills High School in West Covina appeared in court today on child molestation and other charges involving six girls.

Andrew Joseph Barnes, 25 (dob 3-25-1981), was arrested yesterday after case No. KA078223 was filed by Deputy District Attorney Samer Hathout of the Pomona District Attorney's Branch Office.

Barnes appeared in court in Pomona today, but his arraignment was put over until March 7. Bail was set at \$194,000. According to Sheriff's Department records, the defendant posted bail late today.

The defendant taught English and coached track at South Hills High School in West Covina. It was alleged that the crimes occurred at the school late last year and early this year.

Barnes is charged with two felonies – oral copulation of a person under the age of 18 and using a minor for sex acts – involving one of the victims. The remaining 14 counts are misdemeanors – child molestation, also called child annoying, and indecent exposure.

Prosecutors said the victims are between the ages of 16 and 18.

If convicted on all counts, Barnes – who lives in Ontario – faces a sentence of up to 13 years and eight months in prison.

sg

Please read our [Privacy Policy](#).

© 1994-2012 Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office. All Rights Reserved.



Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

[Home](#)[Crimes of Violence](#)[Working With Communities](#)[Fraud & Corruption](#)[Search](#)[Meet the D.A.](#)[Top Documents](#)[Victim Services](#)[Consumer Alert](#)[Bureau of Investigation](#)[Criminal Justice Institute](#)[Newsroom](#)[Job Listings](#)[Office Overview](#)[History of the Office](#)[Office Locations](#)[Office Directory](#)[FAQs](#)[Board Correspondence](#)[L.A. County Home Page](#)[Contact Us](#)

Mother Sentenced to Prison in Toddler's Murder, Torture

February 27, 2007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contacts: [Joe Scott](#), Director of Communications

[Sandi Gibbons](#), Public Information Officer

[Jane Robison](#), News Secretary

(213) 974-3525

LOS ANGELES – The mother of a 22-month-old boy who was tortured and murdered nearly four years ago was sentenced today to 25 years to life in prison.

Sylvia Torres Rolon, 44, was sentenced by Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Michael Pastor, who presided over her jury trial. She was convicted in January of second-degree murder, assault on a child resulting in death and child abuse.

The boy's father, Anthony Bill Lopez, 39, was tried separately. He was convicted last year of torture murder and sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole.

Deputy District Attorney Mary Murray of the Family Violence Division presented evidence that the toddler, Isaac, was suffocated and had injuries all over his body. She said Rolon did nothing to prevent the killing of her son.

The toddler was killed at Rolon's Lancaster condominium on April 21, 2003. Lopez put the body in a tamale pot, which was filled with gasoline and set afire. A day later, Lopez took the child's body with him to a friend's home in Bassett in the east San Gabriel Valley.

The body was found in the van on April 23, 2003, and Lopez was arrested. Subsequent investigation by Sheriff's homicide investigators led to Rolon's arrest. Both she and Lopez remained in custody pending trial.

After Rolon's arrest, her six other children then ranging in age from 13 years to 4 months, were placed in protective custody. Authorities said her three youngest children, including Isaac, were fathered by Lopez.

sg

Please read our [Privacy Policy](#).

© 1994-2012 Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office. All Rights Reserved.



Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

[Home](#)

[Crimes of Violence](#)

[Working With Communities](#)

[Fraud & Corruption](#)

[Search](#)

[Meet the D.A.](#)

[Top Documents](#)

[Victim Services](#)

[Consumer Alert](#)

[Bureau of Investigation](#)

[Criminal Justice Institute](#)

[Newsroom](#)

[Job Listings](#)

[Office Overview](#)

[History of the Office](#)

[Office Locations](#)

[Office Directory](#)

[FAQs](#)

[Board Correspondence](#)

[L.A. County Home Page](#)

[Contact Us](#)

Man Sentenced to 15-Year-To-Life Term in Fatal Traffic Collision

February 28, 2007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contacts: [Joe Scott](#), Director of Communications

[Sandi Gibbons](#), Public Information Officer

[Jane Robison](#), News Secretary

(213) 974-3525

LANCASTER – A Lancaster man convicted of second-degree murder in a 2004 Antelope Valley traffic collision that claimed the life of a 48-year-old mother of four was sentenced today to a 15-year-to-life state prison term.

Deputy District Attorney Sun Chung said Antelope Valley Superior Court Judge Carlos Chung (no relation) imposed the sentence. The judge presided over the jury trial of Christopher Jon Martinez, 42, that ended on Oct. 30, 2006, with guilty verdicts against the defendant.

Besides the murder charge, the jury also convicted the defendant of one count of gross vehicular manslaughter while intoxicated and two counts of driving under the influence (DUI) with injured. The jury also found true the allegations the defendant had two prior DUI convictions, which allowed the prosecutor to seek and obtain the second-degree murder verdict.

Vanessa Ashford Wiley was killed shortly after 8 a.m. on Aug. 25, 2004, when her vehicle was struck by an SUV being driven by Martinez. The collision occurred at Avenue K and 40th Street West in Lancaster.

Two friends riding with Martinez were seriously injured, but survived. Martinez received minor injuries. He has remained in custody since his arrest at Antelope Valley Medical Center.

Wiley was the mother of four adult children and the grandmother of two. She also left 10 brothers and sisters.

sg

Please read our [Privacy Policy](#).

© 1994-2012 Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office. All Rights Reserved.



[Home](#)

[Crimes of Violence](#)

[Working With Communities](#)

[Fraud & Corruption](#)

[Search](#)

[Meet the D.A.](#)

[Top Documents](#)

[Victim Services](#)

[Consumer Alert](#)

[Bureau of Investigation](#)

[Criminal Justice Institute](#)

[Newsroom](#)

[Job Listings](#)

[Office Overview](#)

[History of the Office](#)

[Office Locations](#)

[Office Directory](#)

[FAQs](#)

[Board Correspondence](#)

[L.A. County Home Page](#)

[Contact Us](#)

Jury Recommends Death for Convicted "60 Freeway Slayer"

January 2, 2007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contacts: [Joe Scott](#), Director of Communications

[Sandi Gibbons](#), Public Information Officer

[Jane Robison](#), News Secretary

(213) 974-3525

LOS ANGELES – A Los Angeles Superior Court jury recommended death today for the man convicted of being the "60 Freeway Slayer" who murdered six women in Los Angeles and San Bernardino counties in 1993 and 1994, the District Attorney's office announced.

Ivan J. Hill, who was convicted of the murders by the same jury in November, showed no emotion as trial Judge Larry Paul Fidler read six death sentences – one for each victim. The 45-year-old defendant is scheduled to be formally sentenced on March 21.

Hill was in prison in November 2003 when charged with the murders of five of the six victims. The case of the sixth victim was still under investigation when the case originally was filed. Her murder was added later.

Two of the victims were killed in San Bernardino County. Under an agreement with the San Bernardino County District Attorney's Office, all the murders were tried together in Los Angeles County by Deputy District Attorney John Monaghan of the Major Crimes Division.

Hill was convicted on Nov. 17 of the first-degree murders of:

- Betty Sue Harris, 37, whose body was found about 4:45 a.m. on Nov. 1, 1993, in the parking lot of an industrial complex in Diamond Bar.
- Roxanne Bates, 31, whose body was found about 3:45 a.m. on Nov. 5, 1993, alongside a road in Chino.
- Helen Hill, 35, whose body was found about 10 a.m. on Nov. 14, 1993, in the parking lot of an industrial complex in the City of Industry.
- Donna Goldsmith, 35, who's body was found about 5:15 a.m. on Nov. 16, 1993, in the parking lot of an industrial complex in Pomona.
- Cheryl Sayers, 34, whose body was found about 6:35 a.m. on Dec. 30,

1993, in Ganesha Park in Pomona.

- Debra Brown, 33, whose body was found about 5 a.m. on Jan. 12, 1994, in San Antonio Park in Ontario.

All the victims were strangled. The bodies all were found near the 60 Freeway. Hill was lined to the killings through DNA.

District Attorney Steve Cooley noted when the Hill case was filed that it "dramatically illustrates how law enforcement agencies can reach back in time and bring criminals to justice through DNA technology and a more comprehensive felon DNA database."

Cooley also hailed the interagency cooperation on the case. Besides the San Bernardino District Attorney's Office, other agencies involved included the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department and the Pomona, Ontario and Chino police departments.

Besides convicting Hill of the first-degree murders of the victims, the jury found true the special circumstances of multiple murder and a prior murder conviction.

Hill was arrested in February 1994 in Upland in connection with a string of nine robberies between Nov. 23, 1993, and Feb. 24, 1994. Eight of the robberies were in San Bernardino County and one in eastern Los Angeles County.

He was successfully prosecuted in San Bernardino County and was sentenced to state prison. He had been scheduled for release in February 2004, but because of the murder case, he has instead remained in custody without bail.

sg

Please read our [Privacy Policy](#).

© 1994-2012 Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office. All Rights Reserved.



Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

Home

Crimes of Violence

Working With Communities

Fraud & Corruption

Search

Meet the D.A.

Top Documents

Victim Services

Consumer Alert

Bureau of Investigation

Criminal Justice Institute

Newsroom

Job Listings

Office Overview

History of the Office

Office Locations

Office Directory

FAQs

Board Correspondence

L.A. County Home Page

Contact Us

Man Charged with Murder in New Year's Eve Attack

January 3, 2007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contacts: [Joe Scott](#), Director of Communications

[Sandi Gibbons](#), Public Information Officer

[Jane Robison](#), News Secretary

(213) 974-3525

LOS ANGELES – A 33-year-old Los Angeles man was charged today with two counts of capital murder in the New Year's Eve attack of a family in their Koreatown apartment, the District Attorney's office said.

Matthew Ian Koontz, (DOB 12-14-73), was charged in case BA314867 with two counts of murder with the special circumstances of multiple murder and murder during a burglary and one count of attempted murder, said Deputy District Attorney Scott Goodwin. In addition, he is charged with three counts of first degree residential robbery and one count of first degree burglary with special allegations of personal use of a handgun.

He is scheduled to be arraigned after 1:30 p.m. in Div. 30 at the Foltz Criminal Justice Center. He is being held without bail.

Koontz and a second suspect allegedly broke into an apartment in the 700 block of South Harvard Avenue about 4 a.m. on Sunday during a robbery. The suspects allegedly fatally shot Raul Cruz and his 17-year-old daughter, Jessica Siriano, and wounded his wife, Micaela Estrada. Koontz was arrested a short time later. A second suspect is still at large.

Prosecutors will decide later whether to seek the death penalty.

jr

Please read our [Privacy Policy](#).

© 1994-2012 Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office. All Rights Reserved.



Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

[Home](#)

[Crimes of Violence](#)

[Working With Communities](#)

[Fraud & Corruption](#)

[Search](#)

[Meet the D.A.](#)

[Top Documents](#)

[Victim Services](#)

[Consumer Alert](#)

[Bureau of Investigation](#)

[Criminal Justice Institute](#)

[Newsroom](#)

[Job Listings](#)

[Office Overview](#)

[History of the Office](#)

[Office Locations](#)

[Office Directory](#)

[FAQs](#)

[Board Correspondence](#)

[L.A. County Home Page](#)

[Contact Us](#)

Former Business Partner Convicted of 1988 Mickey Thompson Murders

January 4, 2007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contacts: [Joe Scott](#), Director of Communications

[Sandi Gibbons](#), Public Information Officer

[Jane Robison](#), News Secretary

(213) 974-3525

PASADENA – A Pasadena Superior Court jury convicted Mickey Thompson's former business partner today of the execution murders of the auto racing icon and his wife, Trudy, in front of their Bradbury home in March 1988.

Jurors deliberated a little more than five days before finding 61-year-old Michael Frank Goodwin guilty of two counts of first-degree murder. The jury also found true the special circumstances of lying in wait and multiple murders. Since the District Attorney's office opted not to seek the death penalty, Goodwin will be sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole.

District Attorney Steve Cooley hailed the verdict, saying, "This 18-year ordeal for family members of Mickey and Trudy Thompson is now over. Justice has been secured. We'd like to commend the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department for its investigative efforts and the Orange County District Attorney's Office, which first had this case."

Although a sentencing date has not yet been set by trial Judge Teri Schwartz, a March 1 hearing was scheduled for a defense motion for a new trial. Goodwin remains in custody without bail.

Deputy District Attorneys Pat Dixon and Alan Jackson of the Major Crimes Division presented evidence during the six-week trial that Goodwin repeatedly talked about killing Thompson because he was on the losing end of a bitter business dispute between the two men.

Thompson, a racing promoter and successful businessman known as the "Speed King" for breaking the 400 mph record at Bonneville Salt Flats, had wanted to spend more time with his wife. In the early 1980s, he went into

business with Goodwin, a motocross promoter.

Prosecutors presented evidence that the agreement quickly fell apart. Thompson sued and won a nearly \$800,000 judgment against Goodwin. Goodwin, according to evidence presented, vowed never to pay and threatened to have Thompson “wasted.”

Thompson, 59, and his 41-year-old wife were gunned down outside their home in the hillside San Gabriel Valley community of Bradbury as they left for work early the morning of March 16, 1988.

The killers rode bicycles and escaped. Neither has been found.

Prosecutors contended during the trial that Goodwin hired hit men to kill Thompson. Evidence also showed that Goodwin and his wife liquidated their holdings starting around the time of the murders, and then left the country.

Prosecutors presented evidence that not only were the murders executions (both victims were killed by bullets to the head), but that revenge was the motive. They presented evidence that Trudy Thompson was murdered while her husband watched helplessly, pleading with the killers to let her live.

The case remained under investigation for years. It eventually was filed in Orange County, where Goodwin lived. In 2004, the California Court of Appeal found Orange County lacked jurisdiction to prosecute. The court ruled that the murders occurred in Los Angeles County and suggested that the Los Angeles County District Attorney’s Office evaluate the evidence.

While Orange County had the case, new evidence was uncovered. The Los Angeles District Attorney’s office determined there was sufficient evidence to proceed. Goodwin was charged with special circumstances murder on June 8, 2004.

sg

Please read our [Privacy Policy](#).

© 1994-2012 Los Angeles County District Attorney’s Office. All Rights Reserved.



Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

Home

Crimes of Violence

Working With Communities

Fraud & Corruption

Search

Meet the D.A.

Top Documents

Victim Services

Consumer Alert

Bureau of Investigation

Criminal Justice Institute

Newsroom

Job Listings

Office Overview

History of the Office

Office Locations

Office Directory

FAQs

Board Correspondence

L.A. County Home Page

Contact Us

Statement By District Attorney Steve Cooley on Goodwin Verdict

January 4, 2007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contacts: [Joe Scott](#), Director of Communications

[Sandi Gibbons](#), Public Information Officer

[Jane Robison](#), News Secretary

(213) 974-3525

"This 18-year ordeal for the family members of Mickey and Trudy Thompson is now over. Justice has been secured. We'd like to commend the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department for its investigative efforts and the Orange County District Attorney's Office, which first had this case."

jr

Please read our [Privacy Policy](#).

© 1994-2012 Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office. All Rights Reserved.



Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

[Home](#)

[Crimes of Violence](#)

[Working With Communities](#)

[Fraud & Corruption](#)

[Search](#)

[Meet the D.A.](#)

[Top Documents](#)

[Victim Services](#)

[Consumer Alert](#)

[Bureau of Investigation](#)

[Criminal Justice Institute](#)

[Newsroom](#)

[Job Listings](#)

[Office Overview](#)

[History of the Office](#)

[Office Locations](#)

[Office Directory](#)

[FAQs](#)

[Board Correspondence](#)

[L.A. County Home Page](#)

[Contact Us](#)

Two City Engineers Charged with Allegedly Hacking Into City's Traffic Computer

January 5, 2007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contacts: [Joe Scott](#), Director of Communications

[Sandi Gibbons](#), Public Information Officer

[Jane Robison](#), News Secretary

(213) 974-3525

LOS ANGELES – Two city employees were charged today with multiple counts of illegally accessing a city computer after they allegedly hacked into the city's traffic center that controls traffic lights prior to a job action in August, the District Attorney's office announced.

Gabriel Murillo, 37 (dob 8-2-69), and Kartik Patel, 34 (dob 10-29-72), both engineers with the city's Automated Traffic Surveillance Center, were charged by the D.A.'s newly formed High Tech Crimes Division and Deputy Dist. Atty. Jonathan Fairtlough. The case was investigated by the LAPD's Commercial Crimes Division, Computer Crimes Unit.

Both men are scheduled to be arraigned Monday after 8:30 a.m. at the Foltz Criminal Justice Center, Div. 30. They are charged in case No. BA314744.

The two allegedly illegally accessed the city's Automated Traffic Surveillance Center on Aug. 21 between 9:10 and 9:30 p.m. and sent computer commands that disconnected four signal control boxes at critical intersections from the system. Traffic was affected at four intersections -- Sky Way and World way at LAX; Coldwater Canyon and Riverside Drive; Alvarado Street and Glendale Boulevard at Berkeley Avenue; and First and Alameda Streets. Fortunately, no accidents were reported.

"This amounts to sabotage and not to be tolerated no matter what the dispute or cause," Dist. Atty. Steve Cooley said.

Murillo allegedly accessed codes so that only he and Patel could make changes to the system and bar other managers from correcting problems. The illegal access occurred hours before a job action by members of the Engineers and Architects Assn., which represents the engineers who run and maintain the city's traffic center. It took four days to get the city's traffic

control system fully operational, prosecutors said.

Murillo is charged with one count each of unauthorized access of a computer and identity theft. Patel is charged with one count of unauthorized access of a computer and four counts of unauthorized disruption or denial of computer services.

jr

Please read our [Privacy Policy](#).

© 1994-2012 Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office. All Rights Reserved.



Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

[Home](#)

[Crimes of Violence](#)

[Working With Communities](#)

[Fraud & Corruption](#)

[Search](#)

[Meet the D.A.](#)

[Top Documents](#)

[Victim Services](#)

[Consumer Alert](#)

[Bureau of Investigation](#)

[Criminal Justice Institute](#)

[Newsroom](#)

[Job Listings](#)

[Office Overview](#)

[History of the Office](#)

[Office Locations](#)

[Office Directory](#)

[FAQs](#)

[Board Correspondence](#)

[L.A. County Home Page](#)

[Contact Us](#)

More Than 85 Arrested as Part of Auto Insurance Fraud Crackdown

January 5, 2007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contacts: [Joe Scott](#), Director of Communications

[Sandi Gibbons](#), Public Information Officer

[Jane Robison](#), News Secretary

(213) 974-3525

LOS ANGELES – One of the largest auto insurance fraud cases filed in Los Angeles County was announced today involving 102 defendants, 13 Grand Jury indictments and more than 200 counts of insurance fraud, the District Attorney's office announced.

"The 200-count indictment unsealed today represents one of the largest cases of insurance fraud ever prosecuted in California," District Attorney Steve Cooley said. "I commend the excellent work of investigators from the D. A.'s Bureau of Investigation, our Auto Insurance Fraud Division prosecutors, the California State Department of Insurance, the California Highway Patrol and the Secret Service for their work in putting this complex case together," Cooley said.

Following a tip from a confidential informant, the investigation was launched in September 2004 involving suspected attorneys and legal office employees who were allegedly selling accident insurance claim cases for referral fees and kickbacks from chiropractic clinics. A sting operation was set up and an undercover investigator was planted in a chiropractic clinic.

As part of the so-called "capping" scheme, employees from 12 San Gabriel Valley law offices allegedly referred clients to a chiropractor and then filed fraudulent documentation and padded the bills sent to insurance companies. Settlements were then distributed by the law offices to the client, the law office and the chiropractic clinic. Prosecutors documented more than \$500,000 in losses to insurance companies.

On Dec. 19, the Los Angeles County Criminal Grand Jury issued 13 indictments. Collectively, they contain 200 counts of insurance fraud, 64 counts of capping and three counts of unauthorized practice of law. Following the indictments, 86 people were arrested on Thursday. Arrest warrants were

issued for 16 people. Arraignments for those arrested will continue throughout next week in Dept. 100 at the Foltz Criminal Courts Building.

Of the 102 people indicted, 13 are office administrators who allegedly worked as “cappers,” two are attorneys and 87 are insurance claimants.

“Insurance company cooperation was essential to the success of this investigation,” Cooley said.

NOTE: A press conference with the District Attorney, Insurance Commissioner Steve Poizner and the CHP is scheduled for 11 a.m. Wednesday to discuss the investigation. Arraignments will continue next week.

jr

Please read our [Privacy Policy](#).

© 1994-2012 Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office. All Rights Reserved.



Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

[Home](#)

[Crimes of Violence](#)

[Working With Communities](#)

[Fraud & Corruption](#)

[Search](#)

[Meet the D.A.](#)

[Top Documents](#)

[Victim Services](#)

[Consumer Alert](#)

[Bureau of Investigation](#)

[Criminal Justice Institute](#)

[Newsroom](#)

[Job Listings](#)

[Office Overview](#)

[History of the Office](#)

[Office Locations](#)

[Office Directory](#)

[FAQs](#)

[Board Correspondence](#)

[L.A. County Home Page](#)

[Contact Us](#)

D.A. Statement on Garcia Extradition from Mexico

January 9, 2007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contacts: [Joe Scott](#), Director of Communications

[Sandi Gibbons](#), Public Information Officer

[Jane Robison](#), News Secretary

(213) 974-3525

LOS ANGELES – District Attorney Steve Cooley issued the following statement today on the extradition from Mexico of Jorge Arroyo Garcia:

“The extradition of Jorge Arroyo Garcia is the culmination of joint efforts by local, state, federal and Mexican officials in ensuring that justice is served. The hard work of the Los Angeles County District Attorney’s Office, the Sheriff’s Department, the U.S. Marshal’s Service, Mexican officials and others has paid off. The man accused of murdering Sheriff’s Deputy David William March more than 4-1/2 years ago has been sent back to the United States to stand trial in Los Angeles County.

“The case now moves to our courts here in Los Angeles County. The man accused of gunning down Deputy March in Irwindale on April 29, 2002, will be tried where the crime occurred. The People of the State of California and Deputy March’s survivors will have their day in court in the jurisdiction where the crime occurred. So will Mr. Garcia.

“When I announced Mr. Garcia’s arrest a year ago, I said we never forgive, we never forget and we never give up when a police officer is murdered. Mr. Garcia’s case shows that. But his return also offers hope for the hundreds of victims and survivors of crimes in which the perpetrator has fled to Mexico to avoid prosecution.”

sg

Please read our [Privacy Policy](#).



[Home](#)

[Crimes of Violence](#)

[Working With Communities](#)

[Fraud & Corruption](#)

[Search](#)

[Meet the D.A.](#)

[Top Documents](#)

[Victim Services](#)

[Consumer Alert](#)

[Bureau of Investigation](#)

[Criminal Justice Institute](#)

[Newsroom](#)

[Job Listings](#)

[Office Overview](#)

[History of the Office](#)

[Office Locations](#)

[Office Directory](#)

[FAQs](#)

[Board Correspondence](#)

[L.A. County Home Page](#)

[Contact Us](#)

Attn: News & Assignment Editors Insurance Fraud Press Conference

January 9, 2007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contacts: [Joe Scott](#), Director of Communications

[Sandi Gibbons](#), Public Information Officer

[Jane Robison](#), News Secretary

(213) 974-3525

Dist. Atty. Steve Cooley will be joined by Insurance Commissioner Steve Poizner and the CHP at 11 a.m. Wednesday, Jan. 10, to discuss the two-year undercover investigation that resulted in the indictments of 101 people for insurance fraud.

The case not only represents one of the largest cases of insurance fraud ever prosecuted in California, but it also is the first time a D.A. investigator worked undercover as an office administrator in a chiropractic clinic.

The 11 a.m. press conference will be at the D.A.'s office, 18th Floor Conference Room, in the Foltz Criminal Justice Center, 210 W. Temple St.

jr

Please read our [Privacy Policy](#).

© 1994-2012 Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office. All Rights Reserved.



Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

[Home](#)

[Crimes of Violence](#)

[Working With Communities](#)

[Fraud & Corruption](#)

[Search](#)

[Meet the D.A.](#)

[Top Documents](#)

[Victim Services](#)

[Consumer Alert](#)

[Bureau of Investigation](#)

[Criminal Justice Institute](#)

[Newsroom](#)

[Job Listings](#)

[Office Overview](#)

[History of the Office](#)

[Office Locations](#)

[Office Directory](#)

[FAQs](#)

[Board Correspondence](#)

[L.A. County Home Page](#)

[Contact Us](#)

Dist. Atty's Office, Calif. Dept. of Insurance Discuss "Operation Store Front" as Part of Auto Insurance Fraud Crackdown

January 10, 2007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contacts: [Joe Scott](#), Director of Communications

[Sandi Gibbons](#), Public Information Officer

[Jane Robison](#), News Secretary

(213) 974-3525

LOS ANGELES – An historic two-year undercover sting operation by the Los Angeles County District Attorney's office has disrupted the work of a dozen law office administrators who allegedly routinely defrauded insurance companies. But prosecutors say, "It's only the tip of the iceberg."

"The prevalence of automobile fraud in Southern California has earned Los Angeles the reputation of being the fraud capital of the world," District Attorney Steve Cooley said today. "Thanks to a joint operation with the California Department of Insurance and our Auto Insurance Fraud Division, we've filed one of the largest cases of insurance fraud ever prosecuted in California."

Joining Cooley at a press conference to discuss the undercover operation dubbed "Operation Store Front" was state Insurance Commissioner Steve Poizner.

"This type of insurance fraud, like all insurance fraud, is not a victimless crime," Poizner said. "Insurance fraud hurts all Californians by keeping insurance rates high by adding, in essence, a \$500 fraud tax on every man, woman and child in the state of California."

"To make matters worse, these people not only sought to rob California insurers and consumers of their money, but in their dishonesty have struck at the trust we place in our medical and legal professionals every day," Poizner said. "I'm happy to say that the conduct of those arrested is the exception, not the rule."

Following a tip from a confidential informant, the investigation was launched in September 2004 involving suspected attorneys and legal office employees

who were allegedly selling accident insurance claim cases for referral fees and kickbacks from chiropractic clinics.

The informant allowed an undercover investigator with experience in investigating insurance fraud cases to be planted in the informant's chiropractic clinic. The investigator served as the office administrator.

As part of the so-called "capping" scheme, employees from 12 San Gabriel Valley law offices allegedly referred clients to the chiropractor clinic and then filed fraudulent documentation and padded the bills sent to insurance companies. Settlements were then distributed by the law offices to the client, the law office and the chiropractic clinic. Prosecutors documented more than \$500,000 in losses to insurance companies from just one chiropractic clinic.

"The crimes identified by this investigation are opportunistic crimes fueled by greed," Cooley said. "While we're pleased our investigation has disrupted fraud in a dozen offices in the San Gabriel Valley, these crimes unfortunately are the tip of the iceberg. Hopefully this investigation and the resulting 101 indictments are a message that people who make a career out of defrauding insurance companies will be brought to justice."

Last week, prosecutors announced 13 Grand Jury indictments were returned naming 101 defendants charged with more than 200 counts of insurance fraud. To date, 88 defendants have been arrested. Four are out of the country and 11 are in other states. A total of 325 police officers from 10 agencies assisted in the arrests.

"I commend the excellent work of investigators from the D.A.'s Bureau of Investigation, our Auto Insurance Fraud Division prosecutors, the California State Department of Insurance, the California Highway Patrol, the Secret Service and the FBI for their work in putting this complex case together," Cooley said.

"I also commend the courage of the informant in coming forward and working with investigators. The pressure to go along with business as usual and pay kickbacks or risk going out of business is enormous," he said.

Of the 101 people indicted, 13 are office administrators who allegedly worked as "cappers," two are attorneys and 86 are insurance claimants.

"Insurance company cooperation was essential to the success of this investigation," Cooley said.

Attached is a list of insurance companies that cooperated in the investigation:

- . 21st Century
- . AAA
- . AIG
- . Allstate
- . American Express (Ameriprise)
- . American Family
- . Berkley Risk Administrator
- . Carl Warren & Co. (Los Angeles County)
- . CNA Commercial

- Coast National
- Commerce West
- Continental Western Group
- Danielson National
- Electric
- Everest National
- Farmers
- Gallagher Bassett
- Geico
- Hartford
- Horrace Mann
- Infinity
- Kemper Independent
- Los Angeles City
- Liberty Mutual
- Liberty Mutual Commercial
- Lincoln General
- Mercury
- MGA Insurance
- Mitsui-Sumitomo
- Ocean Harbor Casualty
- Permanent General
- Progressive
- Safeco
- Safeway Direct
- St. Paul Travelers
- State Farm
- Sterling Casualty
- The Robert Plan
- Unitrin Direct
- Unitrin Specialty
- USAA
- Viking
- Wawanesa
- Western General
- Western United
- York Claims
- Zurich Empire

jr

Please read our [Privacy Policy](#).

© 1994-2012 Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office. All Rights Reserved.



[Home](#)

[Crimes of Violence](#)

[Working With Communities](#)

[Fraud & Corruption](#)

[Search](#)

[Meet the D.A.](#)

[Top Documents](#)

[Victim Services](#)

[Consumer Alert](#)

[Bureau of Investigation](#)

[Criminal Justice Institute](#)

[Newsroom](#)

[Job Listings](#)

[Office Overview](#)

[History of the Office](#)

[Office Locations](#)

[Office Directory](#)

[FAQs](#)

[Board Correspondence](#)

[L.A. County Home Page](#)

[Contact Us](#)

Man Found Guilty of Rape in 16-Year-Old Case to be Sentenced Tuesday; Facing Up to 1,000 Years in Prison

January 12, 2007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contacts: [Joe Scott](#), Director of Communications

[Sandi Gibbons](#), Public Information Officer

[Jane Robison](#), News Secretary

(213) 974-3525

LOS ANGELES – A man convicted in November of 100 counts of gang rape and sexual assault is facing between 500 to 1,000 years in state prison when he is sentenced Tuesday, the District Attorney's office announced today.

Fernando Maldonado, 35, was found guilty on Nov. 29 of 60 counts of forcible gang rape, 34 counts of forcible oral copulation in concert, four counts of forcible sodomy and two counts of kidnapping with the special allegations that he used a firearm. The jury deliberated 1½ days before returning the verdict, said Deputy District Attorney Beatriz Dieringer, who prosecuted the case.

On Feb. 8, 1991, two women celebrating one's 23rd birthday were kidnapped at gunpoint near the Beverly Center by Maldonado and an accomplice. The victims were taken to Maldonado's apartment in the 2900 block of Leeward Street in Los Angeles where they were joined by two known MS-13 gang members. The four then repeatedly raped and sexually assaulted the victims for nearly seven hours before they were released.

One of the MS-13 gang members, Julian Chacon, was tried and convicted in 1994 and sentenced on March 25, 1994 to 225 years in prison. The third suspect was shot and killed in a drive-by shooting in late 1991. The fourth accomplice has never been apprehended.

Maldonado eluded police until he was captured more than a decade later. He was living in San Francisco and Oakland and later returned to his home country of Honduras until he came back to the U.S. on Nov. 26, 2002 when he was arrested by Border Patrol agents near Amado, Ariz. Officials discovered he had outstanding warrants for rape in Los Angeles and drug

offenses San Francisco. He was transported to Santa Cruz County jail where he was picked up by LAPD. He has been in the Los Angeles County jail ever since.

Tuesday's sentencing by Judge Kathleen Kennedy-Powell is scheduled for 9 a.m. at the Foltz Criminal Justice Center, Dept. 109.

jr

Please read our [Privacy Policy](#).

© 1994-2012 Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office. All Rights Reserved.



Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

[Home](#)

[Crimes of Violence](#)

[Working With Communities](#)

[Fraud & Corruption](#)

[Search](#)

[Meet the D.A.](#)

[Top Documents](#)

[Victim Services](#)

[Consumer Alert](#)

[Bureau of Investigation](#)

[Criminal Justice Institute](#)

[Newsroom](#)

[Job Listings](#)

[Office Overview](#)

[History of the Office](#)

[Office Locations](#)

[Office Directory](#)

[FAQs](#)

[Board Correspondence](#)

[L.A. County Home Page](#)

[Contact Us](#)

Jury Recommends Second Death Sentence in Jailhouse Killing Case

January 25, 2007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contacts: [Joe Scott](#), Director of Communications

[Sandi Gibbons](#), Public Information Officer

[Jane Robison](#), News Secretary

(213) 974-3525

LOS ANGELES – A Los Angeles jury that earlier this week recommended death for a 25-year-old man accused of fatally strangling a witness who also was being held in county jail returned today with a second death recommendation for the murder of another man in Long Beach 2002.

The same jury in December convicted Santiago Pineda of both first-degree murders and found true the special circumstances leading to a penalty trial. Jurors recommended death for Pineda for the jailhouse murder on Tuesday after about four days of deliberation. The panel foreman said jurors were deadlocked on the other murder. But when a majority of the jurors told Superior Court Judge William R. Pounders that they might reach a verdict with more deliberation, they were sent back to the jury room for further consideration of the case.

As he had earlier in the week, the defendant showed no outward emotion when the second death verdict was announced.

A hearing was scheduled on Feb. 15 for a defense motion for a new trial and possible formal sentencing. Pineda has been in custody without bail since March 2002, when he was arrested and charged with the murder of Rafael Sanchez, also known as Juan C. Armenta. Sanchez was run over and killed with his own car in Long Beach on March 7, 2002.

The second murder, of 20-year-old Raul Tinajero, occurred inside the Los Angeles County Jail system on April 20, 2004. Tinajero, a convicted car thief, had been brought to Los Angeles from state prison to testify against Pineda.

Pineda was standing trial in Long Beach for the Sanchez murder. Tinajero testified at the first trial, but a mistrial was declared and a new trial scheduled when Pineda's attorney became seriously ill. Tinajero was being held in Los

Angeles in anticipation of testifying at the retrial.

During the three-month trial before Pounders, the key piece of evidence in the case was a full-sized jail cell that was built to show jurors how Tinajero was killed. The exhibit, which took up nearly half of the well of the courtroom, was being dismantled at the second death recommendation was returned shortly before noon.

Deputy District Attorney Leslie Klein, who prosecuted the case, said the cell will be crated and saved in case it's needed in other cases.

sg

Please read our [Privacy Policy](#).

© 1994-2012 Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office. All Rights Reserved.



Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

[Home](#)

[Crimes of Violence](#)

[Working With Communities](#)

[Fraud & Corruption](#)

[Search](#)

[Meet the D.A.](#)

[Top Documents](#)

[Victim Services](#)

[Consumer Alert](#)

[Bureau of Investigation](#)

[Criminal Justice Institute](#)

[Newsroom](#)

[Job Listings](#)

[Office Overview](#)

[History of the Office](#)

[Office Locations](#)

[Office Directory](#)

[FAQs](#)

[Board Correspondence](#)

[L.A. County Home Page](#)

[Contact Us](#)

Two Charged with Murder at Hollywood Nightclub

January 30, 2007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contacts: [Joe Scott](#), Director of Communications

[Sandi Gibbons](#), Public Information Officer

[Jane Robison](#), News Secretary

(213) 974-3525

LOS ANGELES – Two men were charged today with murder and assault with a firearm in connection with Saturday's fatal shooting of a 29-year-old bouncer at The Vanguard nightclub in Hollywood, the District Attorney's office announced.

David June Lee, 22 (dob 7-6-84), and Milton Khoa Do, 20 (dob 10-2-86), were charged in case No. BA316272 with one count each of murder and one count each of assault with a firearm, said Deputy District Attorney Joseph Esposito with the Hardcore Gang Division. In addition, Lee was charged with the special allegations of personal use of a handgun, intentional discharge of a handgun causing great bodily injury and death and furthering a criminal street gang. They are being held on \$2 million bail each.

Following an argument with the Hollywood club's staff early Saturday, Lee allegedly fatally shot Ron Emerick, who worked as a bouncer at the club. A second shot wounded a 22-year-old patron. The men then allegedly fled in a car that crashed near the Hollywood Freeway. They were arrested a short time later.

Lee and Do are scheduled to be arraigned after 1:30 p.m. at the Foltz Criminal Justice Center, Division 30.

jr

Please read our [Privacy Policy](#).

© 1994-2012 Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office. All Rights Reserved.

