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NEWS RELEASE

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Gang Member Arraigned on Murder, Attempted Murder Charges

A Hawaiian Gardens gang member, accused of killing a woman during a walk-up shooting, was arraigned today, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced.

Deputy District Attorney Dean A. Bengston said Robert Rubio Jr., 53 (dob 01/23/1960), pleaded not guilty this morning to one count each of murder, attempted murder and possession of a firearm by a felon in case NA097773.

The charges include special allegations that the crime was "committed for the benefit of, at the direction of, and in association with a criminal street gang with the specific intent to promote, further and assist in criminal conduct by gang members."

Rubio entered his plea before Judge Laura Laescke at the Los Angeles County Superior Court, Long Beach Branch. His bail was set at \$4 million.

Prosecutors said that on Dec. 17, 2013, Rubio reportedly walked up to a Long Beach residence and was greeted by Monica Barbosa and her male friend. The defendant then allegedly pulled out a gun and shot Barbosa and the man, prosecutors said. The woman died, while the male victim was treated for his injuries. Long Beach Police arrested Rubio a day after the attack. According to the felony complaint, Rubio has been convicted of other felonies: robbery in 1984, battery in 1992 and manufacturing, selling, or possessing dangerous weapons in 2010.

Rubio's next court date is scheduled for Feb. 28 for a preliminary hearing setting in Department 1 in Los Angeles County Superior Court, Long Beach Branch. If convicted as charged, Rubio faces a maximum sentence of 165 years to life in state prison.

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About the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

Los Angeles County District Attorney Jackie Lacey leads the largest local prosecutorial office in the nation. Her staff of nearly 1,000 attorneys, 300 investigators and 800 support staff members is dedicated to seeking justice for victims of crime and enhancing public safety. Annually, the [Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office](http://da.lacounty.gov) prosecutes more than 60,000 felonies and 140,000 misdemeanor crimes.