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NEWS RELEASE

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Long Beach Man Convicted of Neighbor's Murder

A jury today found a man guilty of fatally shooting his neighbor in Long Beach, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced.

Deputy District Attorney Patrick O'Crowley said the jury deliberated for about a day and a half before finding Mark Stephen Thurwachter, 58, guilty in the first-degree murder of Marvin Williams. They also found true the allegation that the defendant personally and intentionally discharged a firearm causing death.

At the outset of the trial, the defendant pleaded no contest to a charge of possession of a firearm by a felon, and proceeded to trial on the remaining count of murder.

Thurwachter is scheduled to be sentenced on Feb. 26 at the Los Angeles County Superior Court in Long Beach before Judge James B. Pierce. He faces a maximum sentence of 50 years, eight months to life in state prison.

The prosecutor said the defendant and the victim were neighbors at Arbor Mobile Village in Long Beach. Although initially friendly with each other, Thurwachter came to believe Williams had stolen money from him, O'Crowley said.

On the evening of Feb. 1, 2012, people living in the mobile home community heard a shot and found Williams fatally injured in front of his residence. The defendant, who had been there moments before, never returned to his home, the prosecutor said.

A warrant was issued for Thurwachter's arrest on Feb. 6, 2012, and he was apprehended several months later in Ohio. He subsequently was held on \$2 million bail.

During the trial, a Long Beach Police crime lab expert testified that a shell casing found at the murder scene was linked by forensic evidence to ammunition discovered in the defendant's vehicle.

The case was investigated by the Long Beach Police Department.

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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](#) prosecutes more than 60,000 felonies and 140,000 misdemeanor crimes.