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NEWS RELEASE

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Man Pleads No Contest to Robbing Gas Station, Grocery Store

A 22-year-old East Hollywood man has admitted to robbing a gas station and a grocery store in September, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced today.

Christian Vela pleaded no contest yesterday afternoon to one felony count of second-degree robbery and admitted an allegation of a prior felony conviction in case BA471833. He additionally entered a no contest plea to one count of second-degree robbery and admitted an allegation of a prior felony conviction in case BA472895.

Vela is expected to be sentenced to eight years in state prison on March 1 in Department 32 of the Foltz Criminal Justice Center under the terms of the negotiated plea agreement.

His co-defendant, 21-year-old Jeanette Zavala of East Hollywood, pleaded no contest in an open plea to the court on Nov. 8 to one felony count each of second-degree robbery and vandalism causing more than \$400 in damage in case BA471833. She faces up to five years and eight months in state prison when she is sentenced on March 4 in Department 34.

Deputy District Attorney Christopher Laidig prosecuted both cases.

On Sept. 26, the defendants entered a gas station in the 600 block of North Western Avenue in Los Angeles where Zavala stole a case of beer. When the clerk intervened, Vela was accused of shooting the victim multiple times with a BB gun.

The victim was taken to a local hospital where he was treated for his injuries.

Later that evening, the defendants got into a confrontation with employees at a restaurant in the 5400 block of West Sunset Boulevard. There, the pair allegedly damaged kitchen equipment and Zavala shot a window with a BB gun.

Police officers were called to the scene and detained the defendants.

The second case for Vela involves a Sept. 24 incident in which he took items from a grocery store in the 1600 block of North Vermont Avenue in East Hollywood.

The Los Angeles Police Department investigated both cases.

[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 protecting our community through the fair and ethical pursuit of justice and the safeguarding of crime victims' rights.