

Jackie Lacey
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NEWS RELEASE

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**Felon Charged With Capital Murder of
Whittier Police Officer, Relative**

A Los Angeles man was charged today with murdering a police officer and wounding another in Whittier after killing a relative hours earlier, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced.

Michael Christopher Mejia (dob 1/1/91) was charged in case VA144147 with two counts of murder and one count each of attempted murder, carjacking and possession of a firearm by a felon.

Mejia also faces special circumstance allegations of multiple murders, murder of a police officer and murder to escape arrest, making him eligible for the death penalty. The criminal complaint also alleges weapons and a gang allegation.

He is scheduled to be arraigned tomorrow in Department 3 of the Los Angeles County Superior Court, Bellflower Branch.

Deputy District Attorneys Garrett Dameron and Geoff Lewin of the Crimes Against Peace Officers Section are prosecuting the case.

On Feb. 20, Mejia is accused of fatally shooting his 47-year-old cousin, Roy Torres, in East Los Angeles. He allegedly took the victim's car and later crashed the vehicle into two other cars in Whittier.

Police responded to the crash and when they ordered Mejia to get out of his car the defendant is accused of pulling out a semiautomatic handgun and firing at two officers.

Officer Keith Boyer, 53, was killed and Officer Patrick Hazell was wounded in the shootout. Mejia also was wounded.

Mejia has prior convictions for second-degree robbery in 2010 and grand theft auto in 2014.

If convicted as charged, Mejia faces the death penalty or life in prison without the possibility of parole. A decision on whether to seek capital punishment will be made at a later date.

The case remains under investigation by the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department.

[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.