

Jackie Lacey
District Attorney
<http://da.lacounty.gov>



NEWS RELEASE

Media Contact:

Greg Risling
Public Information Officer
213-257-2000
GRisling@da.lacounty.gov
Twitter: @LADAOoffice

March 4, 2016

**Man Charged With Murder After Victim's Body
Found in Plastic Storage Box**

A man was charged today with fatally stabbing an acquaintance whose body was found in a plastic storage container after he had been reported missing, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced.

Kenneth Mullen Watkins (dob 11/24/87) was charged in case BA444632 with one count of murder with the special allegation that he personally used a deadly and dangerous weapon, a knife. He is scheduled to be arraigned today in Department 30 of the Foltz Criminal Justice Center.

Prosecutors said on Jan. 12, a family member reported 52-year-old Terry Nigale Benjamin missing. Tenants at an apartment complex in the 4100 block of Santo Tomas Drive had complained about a foul smell. The same day, the building owner went to Benjamin's apartment and found his body stuffed into a storage box.

According to the criminal complaint, the murder occurred sometime between Jan. 4 and Jan. 12. Benjamin was stabbed multiple times, prosecutors said.

Prosecutors are recommending bail be set at \$2 million. If convicted as charged, Watkins faces a possible maximum sentence of 26 years to life in state prison.

The case remains under investigation by the Los Angeles Police 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.