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NEWS RELEASE

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Man Charged with Murder for Fatal DUI Crash in Maywood

A 32-year-old man was charged yesterday with driving under the influence of alcohol, fatally striking a pedestrian and injuring another, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced.

Leopoldo Leon (dob 3/9/84) of Walnut Park has been charged with four felony counts in case VA144209: murder, hit-and-run resulting in death or serious injury to another person, driving under the influence of alcohol causing injury within 10 years of another DUI offense and driving with a .08 percent blood alcohol content causing injury within 10 years of another DUI offense.

The felony complaint also alleges that the defendant was previously convicted of driving under the influence of alcohol and driving with a .08 percent blood alcohol content or more in 2007.

Leon was scheduled to be arraigned Tuesday, but the court appearance was continued to March 28 in Department J of the Los Angeles County Superior Court, Norwalk Branch.

On the afternoon of March 3, Leon reportedly drove while under the influence of alcohol in Maywood when he struck pedestrians Jose Luis Lopez, 28, and his brother, prosecutors said.

Following the collision, Leon allegedly exited his vehicle and fled on foot, prosecutors said. A bystander ran after the defendant and, with the assistance of another motorist, apprehended Leon until authorities arrived and arrested the defendant, prosecutors added.

The two victims were taken to the hospital for medical treatment, however, Lopez ultimately succumbed to his injuries and died, according to prosecutors.

If convicted as charged, Leon faces a maximum possible sentence of 19 years to life in state prison.

The case is being investigated 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.