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Man Charged with Capital Murders of Elderly Victim, Homeless Man

A 26-year-old man has been charged with killing an 88-year-old man with a pick ax at his Santa Monica apartment and the stabbing murder of a transient days later, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced today.

Deputy District Attorney Michelle Humphrey said Roy Antonio Davis (dob 1/29/92) of Los Angeles faces two counts of murder and one count of first-degree burglary, person present.

The criminal complaint includes the special circumstance allegations of murder while engaged in the commission of a burglary and multiple murders.

The charges include allegations that a pick ax and a knife were used as deadly weapons.

Davis pleaded not guilty to the charges yesterday and is scheduled for a preliminary hearing setting on March 19 in Department W31 of the Los Angeles County Superior Court, Airport Branch. Case SA097439 was filed on Feb. 23 and amended yesterday.

Victim John Hautz was found deceased inside his apartment in the 2300 block of 34th Street in Santa Monica on Jan. 1, the prosecutor said. Hautz suffered multiple stab wounds to the body, the prosecutor added.

The second alleged victim, Kenneth Schmitt, 28, was found stabbed to death outside of a nightclub in the 5900 block of Hollywood Boulevard in Hollywood on Jan. 13, the prosecutor said.

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

The case remains under investigation by the Santa Monica Police Department and the Los Angeles Police Department, West Homicide Bureau.

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.