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NEWS RELEASE

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Man Sentenced to Prison for Pursuit that Ended in Metro Tunnel

A 27-year-old man was sentenced yesterday to two years in state prison for leading police on a pursuit that concluded in a Metro tunnel, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced.

At Thursday's court appearance, Rafael Lopez Jr. of Los Angeles pleaded no contest to three felony counts in case VA147070: fleeing a pursuing peace officer's motor vehicle and driving against traffic; driving or taking a vehicle without consent; and hit-and-run driving resulting in injury to another person.

Prosecutors said on the evening of Feb. 20, police observed a reported stolen truck near Gage and Salt Lake avenues in Huntington Park.

Officers attempted to pull over the vehicle, however, the truck's driver, later identified as Lopez, continued driving, prosecutors added. During the police pursuit, Lopez drove at high speeds, ran through red lights, traveled on the wrong side of the road and hit another vehicle, according to prosecutors.

The defendant then drove onto the light rail lines of the Metro Gold Line and into an underground tunnel, where he abandoned the vehicle, prosecutors said.

Authorities began searching for Lopez and found him hiding in a closet inside the tunnel. The defendant was subsequently taken into custody.

The case was investigated by the Huntington Park 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.