

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

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Charges Filed in Decade-Old Murder of Elderly Man in Home Invasion Attack

A man has been charged with capital murder for killing an 80-year-old man who was brutally attacked during a home invasion and was gravely injured until his death five years later, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced.

Harry Leon Neely (dob 9/14/74) was arrested March 9 in Memphis, Tenn., and is expected to be arraigned today in Department 30 of the Foltz Criminal Justice Center.

Neely was charged in case BA444743 with one count each of murder and first-degree burglary, person present. Prosecutors also filed a special circumstance allegation that the murder was carried out during the commission of a robbery.

On Aug. 13, 2005, Harvey Sumpter was found bound and gagged in his South Los Angeles home and appeared to be the victim of a home invasion robbery, prosecutors said.

Sumpter was badly injured and was in a vegetative state until he died on Feb. 19, 2010. He died from blunt force trauma to his head, prosecutors added.

Prosecutors will determine at a later date whether to seek the death penalty.

The case remains under investigation by the Los Angeles Police Department.

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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.