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NEWS RELEASE

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## **LAPD Officer Sentenced in Perjury Case**

A Los Angeles Police Department officer was sentenced today to three years probation for lying under oath during a 2008 drug possession case, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced.

Los Angeles County Superior Court Judge George Lomeli also ordered Manuel Ortiz, 40, to perform 900 hours of either graffiti removal or Caltrans work.

In February, Ortiz was found guilty of one count each of conspiracy and perjury.

In a previous trial, former LAPD Officers Evan Samuel and Richard Amio, were convicted of similar charges arising out of the same incident. However, jurors deadlocked on the charges against Ortiz.

Samuel and Amio also received probationary sentences.

During a January 2008 preliminary hearing for a defendant in a drug case, Ortiz falsely testified about his involvement in the underlying investigation, said Deputy District Attorney Geoffrey Rendon with the Justice System Integrity Division.

Rendon said the officers lied about certain aspects of the case including the circumstances surrounding the recovery and location of cocaine base and powder found in a carport of an apartment complex.

The drug possession case was dismissed against the defendant after footage from the apartment building's security camera contradicted the sworn testimony of the officers.

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### **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 seeking justice for victims of crime and enhancing public safety. Annually, the [Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office](#) prosecutes more than 60,000 felonies and 140,000 misdemeanor crimes.