

Jackie Lacey

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NEWS RELEASE

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April 25, 2014

Driver Found Guilty of Murder for DUI Crash That Killed Freeway Workers

A Wilmington man was found guilty of murder today for the death of two construction workers on the 405 Freeway, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced.

A jury found Yocio Jonathan Gómez, 25, guilty of two felony counts each of second-degree murder, gross vehicular manslaughter while intoxicated, and one felony count each of DUI causing injury and DUI over .08 percent alcohol causing injury with two or more priors.

He faces up to 30 years to life in state prison at a sentencing hearing scheduled for May 30 in Department F at the Los Angeles County Superior Court, Torrance Branch.

According to testimony during the trial, at about 3:30 a.m. on July 22, 2012, Gómez was driving his Ford Explorer at 90 mph through a construction zone when he rear-ended another SUV which spun out of control, striking and killing Ramón López and Ricardo Zamora. A third worker was injured. The Ford Explorer overturned on its roof.

Gómez, who had a .21 blood alcohol level, had just left a friend's party where party goes and the defendant's mother pleaded with him to spend the night because he had been drinking, according to prosecutors.

The case was prosecuted by Deputy District Attorneys Christopher Hartman and Daniel Merrick. The investigation was conducted by the California Highway Patrol.

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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. Last year, the [Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office](http://da.lacounty.gov) prosecuted more than 73,000 felony defendants and 113,000 misdemeanor defendants.