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NEWS RELEASE

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Man Charged with Convenience Store Robbery in Santa Monica

A 33-year-old man has been charged with robbing a convenience store at knifepoint and possessing drugs, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced today.

Redmond James O'Neal (dob 1/30/85) has been charged with six counts in case SA097989: one count each of second-degree robbery, assault with a deadly weapon, possession of a smoking device, possession of an injection/ingestion device and two counts of possessing a controlled substance.

The felony complaint includes a special allegation that the defendant personally used a deadly and dangerous weapon, a knife, during the commission of the robbery.

The charging document also alleges O'Neal was previously convicted of possession of a controlled substance in jail in 2009 and possession of a firearm by a felon in 2015.

The defendant is scheduled to be arraigned today in Department W30 of the Los Angeles County Superior Court, Airport Branch. Prosecutors are asking that bail be set at \$125,000.

On May 8, O'Neal allegedly armed himself with a knife, entered a Santa Monica convenience store and demanded cash from the clerk, prosecutors said.

Authorities were called and the defendant was arrested near the store, according to prosecutors. When police took O'Neal into custody, they reportedly discovered that the defendant was in possession of drugs and drug paraphernalia.

If convicted as charged, O'Neal faces a maximum possible sentence of 10 years in state prison.

The case is being investigated by the Los Angeles 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.