

Jackie Lacey

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NEWS RELEASE

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July 18, 2014

Former Arcadia Police Officer Pleads No Contest to Embezzling Funds From Police Officers' Association

A former Arcadia Police Department officer pleaded no contest today to embezzling tens of thousands of dollars from a police association to purchase personal items, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced.

Christian Blesch, 36, entered his plea to one count of grand theft by embezzlement and was scheduled to be sentenced Sept. 30 when he will be ordered to serve 180 days in county jail and placed on probation for three years.

Deputy District Attorney Geoffrey Rendon of the Justice System Integrity Division said Blesch began stealing funds from the Arcadia Police Officers' Association after being elected as its treasurer in 2011.

Blesch used the association's credit card to buy parts and accessories for his own motorcycles as well as other personal items such as clothing, exercise equipment and cigars, the prosecutor said. He then paid the monthly credit card bills via the organization's checking account.

As part of the plea agreement, Blesch will pay nearly \$42,000 in restitution.

The case was investigated by the Arcadia Police Department and the District Attorney's Bureau of Investigation.

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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](#) prosecuted more than 73,000 felony defendants and 113,000 misdemeanor defendants.