

Jackie Lacey

District Attorney

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NEWS RELEASE

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Man Charged in Fatal Shooting at Trader Joe's

A 28-year-old man who allegedly shot his grandmother and led police on a high-speed pursuit before exchanging gunfire with officers – leading to the fatal shooting of a woman – was charged today, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced.

Gene Evin Atkins (dob 01/12/90) is expected to be arraigned today in Department 30 of the Foltz Criminal Justice Center. Atkins faces 31 counts in case BA469832:

One count each of murder; kidnapping; fleeing a pursuing peace officer's motor vehicle while driving recklessly; grand theft of an automobile; driving or taking a vehicle without consent; discharge of a firearm with gross negligence; shooting at an occupied motor vehicle; and assault with a firearm.

Atkins also is charged with two counts of attempted, willful, deliberate and premeditated attempted murder; four counts of attempted murder of a peace officer; four counts of assault on a peace officer with a semiautomatic firearm; and 13 counts of false imprisonment of a hostage. The criminal complaint additionally includes allegations of gun use and causing great bodily injury and death.

Deputy District Attorney Tannaz Mokayef of the Major Crimes Division said Atkins is charged with the murder of Melyda Maricela Corado, 27, who was shot on July 21 when the defendant allegedly engaged police in a gun battle at a Trader Joe's in the Silver Lake area of Los Angeles.

Prosecutors said Atkins was charged based on a provocative act theory of murder which holds that the defendant's criminal acts set into motion a situation where the natural and probable consequences of the defendant's criminal acts were dangerous to human life and a third party, in response to those acts, responded with deadly force.

Prosecutors have recommended that bail be set at \$18.7 million. If convicted as charged, Atkins faces a possible maximum sentence of life in prison.

The case remains under investigation 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.