

Jackie Lacey

District Attorney
<http://da.lacounty.gov>



NEWS RELEASE

Media Contact:

Greg Risling, Assistant Chief
Media Relations Division
213-257-2000
GRisling@da.lacounty.gov
Twitter: @LADAOffice

July 29, 2019

Man Charged With Capital Murder of 4 People in San Fernando Valley Shooting Spree

A man was charged today with killing four people, including his father and brother, and injuring two others during a shooting spree last week in the San Fernando Valley, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced.

Gerry Dean Zaragoza (dob 8/23/92) was charged in case LA090958 with four counts of murder, two counts of attempted murder and one count of attempted robbery. The criminal complaint also includes a special circumstance allegation of multiple murders, making Zaragoza eligible for the death penalty.

Arraignment is expected today in Department 100 of the Los Angeles County Superior Court, Van Nuys Branch.

Deputy District Attorney Jonathan Chung of the Major Crimes Division is prosecuting the case.

On July 25, Zaragoza is accused of fatally shooting his 56-year-old father, Carlos Ignacio Zaragoza, and his 33-year-old brother, Carlos Pierre Zaragoza, at a residence in the 21900 block of Roscoe Boulevard in Canoga Park. The defendant also allegedly shot his mother in the hand.

Zaragoza then went to North Hollywood where he is accused of killing a former girlfriend, Azucena Lepe-Ayala, 45, at a gas station near the Burbank Airport. A man also was wounded in the attack, the prosecutor said.

The defendant allegedly tried to rob a man outside of a bank in Canoga Park hours later. Zaragoza also is accused of killing Detwonia Harris, 55, aboard a bus that had stopped in Van Nuys.

Zaragoza was later found and arrested.

If convicted as charged, Zaragoza faces a possible maximum sentence of life in state prison without the possibility of parole or death. A decision on whether to seek the death penalty will be made at a later date.

The case remains under investigation by the Los Angeles Police Department's Robbery-Homicide Division.

[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.