

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

Aug. 28, 2019

Man Charged With Capital Murder of Homeless Man on Skid Row

A Los Angeles man was charged today with burning to death a homeless man on Skid Row earlier this week, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced.

Jonathan Early (dob 7/7/81) was charged in case BA480698 with one count of murder with the special circumstance allegation that the crime was intentional and involved the infliction of torture. He is expected to be arraigned today in Department 30 of the Foltz Criminal Justice Center.

Deputy District Attorney Joy Roberts of the Arson and Explosives Section is prosecuting the case.

On Aug. 26, Early is accused of setting a tent on fire near 6th and San Pedro streets in downtown Los Angeles. Dwayne Fields, 62, was inside the tent and died as a result from the blaze. The defendant fled but was arrested a short time later.

If convicted as charged, Early faces the death penalty or life in prison without the possibility of parole. 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 and the Los Angeles City Fire Department's Arson/Counter-Terrorism Section.

[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.