

*Jackie Lacey*  
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NEWS RELEASE

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## **Second Woman Charged in Metro Blue Line Killing**

A second woman was charged today in connection with the fatal beating of a man at a Metro Blue Line station, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced.

Virginia Marie Butler (dob 1/31/91) has been charged with one count of murder in case TA134727.

The defendant is scheduled to be arraigned today in Department 12 of the Los Angeles County Superior Court in Compton. Prosecutors are recommending that her bail be set at \$1 million.

Prosecutors said on the afternoon of June 13, Butler and codefendant Tracy Joy Gomez reportedly approached John Whitmore, 65, on the Metro Blue Line platform and allegedly beat him.

After Whitmore fell to the ground, Gomez and Butler allegedly left the area, prosecutors said.

Authorities were called and the victim was taken to the hospital for treatment. Seven days later, Whitmore died from his injuries.

An investigation by the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department led deputies to Gomez and Butler. Gomez was arrested on Aug. 24, while Butler was apprehended on Aug. 27.

Gomez's next court appearance is scheduled for Sept. 15 for a preliminary hearing setting in Department D of the Los Angeles County Superior Court, Compton Branch.

If convicted as charged, both defendants face a maximum sentence of life in state prison.

The case is being investigated by the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, Homicide Division.

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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.