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NEWS RELEASE

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Inglewood Woman Pleads to 2016 Attack on Landlord

A 33-year-old Inglewood woman pleaded guilty today to conspiracy and assault after she asked her co-defendant to attack her landlord three years ago, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced.

Ashley Melissa Butts (dob 4/15/86) entered an open plea to one count each of conspiracy to commit assault and assault with force likely to cause great bodily injury. An open plea means a sentence was not negotiated with the District Attorney's Office.

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

Butts was embroiled in a dispute with her landlord after moving into his home in the 3300 block of West 78th Street.

She arranged for a rideshare driver to transport Israel Rios (dob 4/25/79) and another man to the residence on April 30, 2016, to assault the victim.

The two defendants exchanged text messages shortly before the other man, who has not been identified, allegedly assaulted the victim with a metal bat.

Rios is charged with one felony count each of assault by means likely to produce great bodily injury, conspiracy to commit assault and first-degree burglary with a person present.

Butts is expected to be sentenced on Nov. 13 to one year in county jail as well as a four-year suspended prison sentence.

Rios is facing up to 22 years in state prison. He is expected to return to court on Oct. 4 for a pretrial hearing in Department 129 of the Foltz Criminal Justice Center.

Case BA447486 was investigated 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.