

Jackie Lacey
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NEWS RELEASE

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Gardena Man Enters Plea for Pointing Laser at Aircrafts

A 19-year-old man entered a no contest plea today for pointing a green laser at an airplane and two helicopters near Hawthorne Airport, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced.

Deputy District Attorney Felipe M. Vela said Enrique Felix Gomez (dob 10/26/95) of Gardena pleaded to one felony count of discharge of laser at an occupied aircraft in case YA092012.

Gomez faces a year in county jail and three years formal probation at a sentencing hearing scheduled for Nov. 2 in Dept. F of the Los Angeles County Superior Court, Torrance Branch.

According to court testimony, Gomez pointed a high-powered laser at a private aircraft which was making an approach for landing at Hawthorne Airport on Feb 14. He also pointed the laser at Los Angeles County Fire Department and Los Angeles County Sheriff helicopter, the prosecutor said.

Two of the pilots said they were temporarily blinded when the laser hit them directly on the eyes, the prosecutor added.

The Gardena Police Department investigated the case.

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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 71,000 felony defendants and nearly 112,000 misdemeanor defendants.