

Jackie Lacey

District Attorney

<http://da.lacounty.gov>



NEWS RELEASE

Media Contact:

Sarah Ardalani
Public Information Officer
213-257-2000
SArdalani@da.lacounty.gov
Twitter: @LADAOoffice

Sept. 29, 2015

Man Enters Plea for Alhambra Car Crash

A 29-year-old man was convicted today of driving under the influence of alcohol and causing a vehicular collision that injured several bystanders in Alhambra, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced.

At today's court appearance, Ismael Soto pleaded no contest to all counts in case GA095378 in an open plea to the court: driving under the influence of alcohol causing injury within 10 years of two other DUI offenses; driving with a .08 percent blood alcohol content causing injury within 10 years; driving when privilege suspended or revoked for DUI conviction; and driving a vehicle not equipped with an ignition interlock device when driving privilege was restricted.

The open plea means a sentence was not negotiated with the District Attorney's Office.

Soto also admitted special allegations that he inflicted great bodily injury to more than one victim in the commission of the crime; the defendant drove at an excessive speed; and that he had a blood alcohol content in excess of .20 percent.

Additionally, the defendant admitted he was previously convicted in 2013 of driving while having a .08 percent or higher blood alcohol and driving when privilege suspended or revoked.

The defendant is scheduled to be sentenced on Nov. 3 in Department 5 of the Los Angeles County Superior Court, Alhambra Branch. Soto is expected to be sentenced to 12 years in state prison.

Deputy District Attorney Sonia Govea, who prosecuted the case, said on the evening of Dec. 14, 2014, Soto drove while under the influence of alcohol and crashed his car into parked vehicles.

He also hit a group of people near Fremont Avenue and Poplar Boulevard in Alhambra, the prosecutor added.

Soon after the incident, the defendant was arrested in connection with the crash.

The case was investigated by the Alhambra Police Department.

#

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.