



## LOS ANGELES COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE MEDIA RELATIONS DIVISION

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### **Former Arcadia Police Officer Charged with Embezzlement**

A former Arcadia Police Department officer pleaded not guilty today to one count of grand theft by embezzlement for allegedly charging more than \$50,000 for personal items, including making a down payment on a motorcycle, on a police association's credit card, the District Attorney's Office announced.

Christian Eric Blesch, 36 (dob 8-16-77), surrendered on a felony complaint for arrest warrant filed on Sept. 24 by Deputy District Attorney Geoffrey Rendon with the Justice System Integrity Division. His bail was set at \$45,000 in case BA416513.

Rendon said Blesch, who was elected in January 2011 to serve as treasurer for the Arcadia Police Officer Association, allegedly used the association's credit card to purchase parts and accessories for his personal motorcycles, as well as personal items such as clothing, exercise equipment, shaving accessories and cigars. Blesch allegedly paid the monthly credit card bills via check from the association's checking account.

If convicted, Blesch, who resigned from the department in September, faces up to three years in custody.

Blesch returns to court on Nov. 8 in Department 30 at the Foltz Criminal Justice Center to set a date for his preliminary hearing.

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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. Annually, the [Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office](#) prosecutes more than 60,000 felonies and 140,000 misdemeanor crimes.

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