

Jackie Lacey

District Attorney
<http://da.lacounty.gov>



NEWS RELEASE

Media Contact:

Ricardo Santiago
Public Information Officer
213-257-2000
RSantiago@da.lacounty.gov
Twitter: @LADAOffice

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Man Sentenced for Long Beach Rape, Elder Assault, Burglaries

A 40-year-old man was sentenced today to 423 years to life in state prison for raping one woman and assaulting a 90-year-old victim while committing burglaries in Long Beach, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced.

On July 20, a jury found Melvin Earl Farmer Jr. of Lynwood guilty of 13 felony counts: one count each of forcible rape, sexual battery by restraint, dissuading a witness from reporting a crime, assault to commit a felony during the commission of a first-degree burglary, criminal threats, second-degree robbery, and elder abuse as well as three counts each of first-degree residential robbery and first-degree burglary, person present.

Co-defendant Sophia Yim, 33, entered a no contest plea on July 9 without a prior agreement with the District Attorney's Office. She pleaded to one count each of first-degree residential robbery and first-degree burglary, person present.

On Aug. 6, Yim was sentenced to five years of felony probation, 30 days of community service and given a six-year suspended prison sentence.

Deputy District Attorneys L. Christmas Brookens and Jacqueline Mac prosecuted the case.

Farmer went on a burglary crime spree between Feb. 2 and 9, 2017, the prosecutors said. According to evidence presented in court, during a burglary on Feb. 5, 2017, the defendant raped a 63-year-old woman.

On Feb. 9, 2017, Farmer burglarized the home of a 90-year-old woman. According to witness testimony, the defendant beat the victim and demanded a sexual favor which she refused.

Case NA105864 was investigated by the Long Beach 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 protecting our community through the fair and ethical pursuit of justice and the safeguarding of crime victims' rights.