

Jackie Lacey

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<http://da.lacounty.gov>



NEWS RELEASE

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Driver Charged With Killing Bicyclist Near USC

A motorist has been charged with murdering a bicyclist near the University of Southern California last week, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced.

Andrew Williams (dob 9/5/83) was charged in case BA440824 with one count each of murder and hit-and-run resulting in death or serious injury. He is scheduled to be arraigned today in Department 30 of the Foltz Criminal Justice Center.

On Oct. 15, prosecutors said Williams was driving his SUV in the 3900 block of South Vermont Avenue when he came across Ruben Wharton Vanegas who was on a bicycle.

The two men had been arguing when Williams is accused of running over the victim, dragging his body for about 100 feet, prosecutors added. Vanegas died at the scene.

Prosecutors are recommending bail be set at \$1 million. If convicted as charged, Williams faces up to 25 years to life in state prison.

The case remains under investigation by the Los Angeles Police Department's South Bureau Homicide.

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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](http://da.lacounty.gov) prosecuted more than 71,000 felony defendants and nearly 112,000 misdemeanor defendants.