

Jackie Lacey

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NEWS RELEASE

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Suspected Thief Facing Murder Charge In Boyle Heights Carjacking

A 17-year-old boy was charged today with murder after he is accused of stealing a vehicle and killing a man who clung to a car door trying to prevent the theft, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced.

Jorge Ruiz (dob 8/2/97) was charged as an adult in case BA431801 with one count each of murder and carjacking along with the special circumstance allegation the murder occurred during a carjacking. If convicted as charged, Ruiz faces up to life in prison without the possibility of parole. He is not eligible for the death penalty.

Arraignment will be scheduled at a later date.

Prosecutors said Oscar Perez, 19, was involved in a collision on Nov. 23 and was trying to get the other driver's information when Ruiz got into Perez's vehicle. The victim managed to hang onto the driver's side door as Ruiz sped away.

Ruiz drove for about a half-mile at a high rate of speed until the car crashed into a building in Boyle Heights and erupted in flames, prosecutors said. Perez died at the scene, while Ruiz suffered major injuries.

The case is being investigated by Los Angeles Police Department, Hollenbeck Division.

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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 73,000 felony defendants and 113,000 misdemeanor defendants.