

*Jackie Lacey*  
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NEWS RELEASE

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**Man Charged after Major Car Crash in Alhambra**

Prosecutors today charged an alleged drunken driver involved in a vehicular collision that injured more than a dozen bystanders looking at Christmas decorations in Alhambra, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced.

Ismael Soto, 28, (dob 10/28/86) of Los Angeles has been charged with four counts: 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. He is charged in case GA095378.

The defendant is scheduled to be arraigned this afternoon at the Los Angeles County Superior Court in Alhambra, Department 5. Prosecutors will recommend that his bail be set at \$526,200.

The felony complaint further alleges that Soto inflicted great bodily injury to more than one victim in the commission of the crime; the defendant drove at an excessive speed; and Soto had a blood alcohol content in excess of 0.20 percent.

Additionally, the charging document alleges that the defendant was previously convicted in 2013 of driving while having a 0.08 percent or higher blood alcohol and driving when privilege suspended or revoked.

Prosecutors said on the evening of Dec. 14, Soto drove while inebriated and crashed his car into parked vehicles and a group of people near Fremont Avenue and Poplar Boulevard in Alhambra.

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

If convicted as charged, Soto faces a maximum sentence of more than 20 years in state prison.

The case is being investigated by the Alhambra Police Department.

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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.