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NEWS RELEASE

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**Man Accused of Impersonating an Officer,
Robbing Immigrants in Pomona**

A 20-year-old man was charged today with posing as a police officer to threaten and steal from immigrants in the Pomona area, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced.

Andres Sanchez (dob 4/10/97) of Ontario has been charged with ten felony counts in case KA117006: five counts of false imprisonment by violence, three counts of second-degree robbery and two counts of attempted second-degree robbery.

The felony complaint includes a special allegation that the defendant impersonated a peace officer during the alleged crimes. Additionally, the charging document alleges Sanchez personally used a firearm during one of the incidents.

Furthermore, the felony complaint states that when the alleged crimes were committed, the defendant was either released from custody on bail or on his own recognizance in another case.

Sanchez was scheduled to be arraigned today, but the court appearance was continued to Jan. 3 in Department F of the Los Angeles County Superior Court, Pomona Branch.

Prosecutors said between Dec. 7 and Dec. 21, Sanchez allegedly dressed himself in a law enforcement uniform, drove in an unmarked vehicle and pulled over drivers he believed were immigrants.

Sanchez then reportedly threatened deportation if the drivers did not hand over money, jewelry or cell phones, prosecutors added. Following a tip from a concerned citizen, Sanchez was apprehended on Dec. 21.

If convicted as charged, the defendant faces a maximum possible sentence of 25 years and four months in state prison.

The case is being investigated by the Pomona 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.