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NEWS RELEASE

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Long Beach Man and His Mother Charged in Connection to Police Pursuit

A Long Beach man has been charged in connection with a high-speed police pursuit that ended with the man barricaded at his mother's home in San Pedro last week, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced today.

Anthony Leon Hernandez, aka Jereme Cruz Hernandez (dob 10/25/85), faces one felony count each of fleeing a pursuing peace officer's motor vehicle while driving recklessly and grand theft of an automobile as well as two misdemeanor counts of resisting, delaying or obstructing a peace officer.

Gina Lorraine Hernandez, aka Gina Loraine Muñoz (dob 5/13/67), the mother of Anthony Hernandez, faces one felony count of accessory after the fact.

Both defendants pleaded not guilty to the charges yesterday and are scheduled to return on Feb. 11 in Department S01 of the Los Angeles County Superior Court, Long Beach Branch.

It is alleged that on Jan. 30, Anthony Hernandez stole a Honda Civic in Long Beach. The owner of the vehicle observed his car being driven away from his home and immediately notified police. A Long Beach police officer spotted the car soon after, prosecutors said.

When the defendant refused to stop, police pursued him into San Pedro where Anthony Hernandez allegedly began driving around his mother's house, prosecutors added. Gina Hernandez reportedly stepped into the path of police vehicles that were pursuing her son on repeated occasions.

Anthony Hernandez eventually jumped out of the moving car and ran into the home. Police found him hidden in the home's attic, prosecutors said.

If convicted as charged, Anthony Hernandez faces a possible maximum sentence of more than six years in prison and Gina Hernandez faces three years in prison.

Case NA113759 remains under investigation 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.