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NEWS RELEASE

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Four Probation Officers Found Not Guilty For Unlawfully Using Pepper Spray at Juvenile Hall

Four Los Angeles County probation officers have been found not guilty on charges that they unlawfully used pepper spray against teenage girls housed at Los Padornos Juvenile Hall, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced today.

A jury deliberated less than a day before acquitting LaCour Harrison (dob 6/15/65), Claudette Reynolds (dob 1/9/62), Maria Asuzena Guerrero (dob 7/15/90) and Karnesha Marshall (dob 2/11/91) of misdemeanor cruelty to a child by endangering her health.

Harrison and Reynolds also were found not guilty yesterday of one felony count each of assault by a public officer.

Case BA476688 was prosecuted by the Justice System Integrity Division.

The defendants, who worked as detention services officers, were accused of using excessive force when using pepper spray and also were accused of acting unreasonably by delaying the victims from being decontaminated after they were sprayed.

Two other officers are facing similar charges in case BA476681.

Marlene Rochelle Wilson (dob 11/26/72) was charged with five felony counts of assault by a public officer and three misdemeanor counts of child abuse. She faces a possible maximum sentence of eight years and eight months in state prison to be served in local custody.

Janeth Vilchez (dob 5/19/70) was charged with one count each of assault by a public officer and child abuse. She faces a possible maximum sentence of four years in prison to be served in local custody.

They are scheduled to return to court for a preliminary hearing setting on March 25 in Department 30 of the Foltz Criminal Justice Center.

The cases were investigated by the Los Angeles County Probation 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.