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NEWS RELEASE

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Man Charged with Leading Police on Pursuit in Stolen Hearse

A 25-year-old man was charged today with leading police in a pursuit while driving a stolen hearse, the Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced.

James Juarez (dob 6/11/94), a transient, faces one felony count each of fleeing a pursuing peace officer's motor vehicle while driving recklessly and driving or taking a vehicle without consent.

Arraignment for case BA485684 is scheduled today in Department 30 of the Foltz Criminal Justice Center.

The 2017 Lincoln Navigator reportedly still had a deceased person inside it when it was taken from in front of a church in Pasadena on February 26, prosecutors said. The next day, police spotted the vehicle allegedly driven by Juarez, who then led law enforcement on a pursuit which ended with a crash on the 110 Freeway, prosecutors added.

If convicted as charged, the defendant faces a possible maximum sentence of more than three years in state prison.

The case remains under investigation by the Los Angeles Police Department, Newton Division.

[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.