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NEWS RELEASE

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April 5, 2019

Probation Officers Charged With Unlawfully Using Pepper Spray on Teen Girls at Juvenile Hall

Six Los Angeles County probation officers have been charged in connection with unlawfully using pepper spray against five teenage girls housed at Los Padrinos Juvenile Hall last year, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced today.

Two separate cases were filed for warrant yesterday that allege the defendants, who work as detention services officers, either were unreasonable when using pepper spray or prevented the victims from being decontaminated after they were sprayed. The six incidents occurred between April and July of 2018.

All six defendants made their initial court appearance today and are scheduled to return for arraignment on May 23 in Department 40 of the Foltz Criminal Justice Center.

Deputy District Attorneys Kaveh Futurechi and Oscar Plascencia of the Justice System Integrity Division are prosecuting the cases.

The defendants in case BA476681 are:

- Marlene Rochelle Wilson (dob 11/26/72) 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) 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.

The defendants in case BA476688 are:

- LaCour Harrison (dob 6/15/65) charged with one count of felony assault by a public officer and two misdemeanor counts of cruelty to child by endangering her health. He faces up to four years in prison to be served in local custody.

- Claudette Reynolds (dob 1/9/62) charged with one count each of assault by a public officer and cruelty to a child by endangering her health. She faces up to 3 ½ years in prison to be served in local custody.
- Maria Asuzena Guerrero (dob 7/15/90) charged with one count of cruelty to a child by endangering her health.
- Karnesha Marshall (dob 2/11/91) charged with one count of cruelty to a child by endangering her health. Both Guerrero and Marshall face up to six months in jail.

The cases remain under investigation 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.