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NEWS RELEASE

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Gang Member Sentenced to Prison for Attempted Murder, Carjacking

A gang member was sentenced today to 35 years to life in state prison for an attempted carjacking and murder, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced.

On Aug. 19, 2016, a jury found Jessie Abbott Duran, 27, of Whittier, guilty of five counts in case VA134599: one count each of attempted murder, attempted carjacking, assault with a firearm, shooting at an occupied motor vehicle and possession of a firearm by a felon.

Jurors also found true special allegations that the defendant personally and intentionally discharged a handgun. Additionally, that the crimes were committed for the benefit and at the direction of, and in association with a criminal street gang, and with the intent to promote, further, and assist in criminal conduct by gang members.

Deputy District Attorney John Chang of the Hardcore Gang Division, who prosecuted the case, said on April 3, 2014, a man was sitting in a car near his Whittier home when Duran walked up to the vehicle and demanded the car. The man refused to give up his vehicle, drove away and alerted police, according to the prosecutor.

The victim then drove back to his home when he saw Duran coming at him again, the prosecutor added. The two men had an exchange and the defendant began shooting at the victim before fleeing the area. Although the victim was uninjured, one of the bullets hit a passing car, the prosecutor said.

Authorities were able to locate the defendant soon after the incident and he was arrested in connection with the crimes.

The case was investigated by the Whittier 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.