

*Jackie Lacey*  
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NEWS RELEASE

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**CORRECTION: Corrects the city of residence of the defendant and the department of the next court date.**

May 20, 2020

## **Woman Charged With Killing Pedestrian, Fleeing Scene**

A woman has been charged with killing a man by crashing into him as he walked along a downtown Los Angeles street, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced today.

Maria Perez (dob 10/15/60) of Bell Gardens faces one felony count of hit-and-run driving resulting in death and one misdemeanor count of vehicular manslaughter without gross negligence.

The defendant pleaded not guilty to the charges yesterday and is scheduled to return on June 2 in Department 31 of the Foltz Criminal Justice Center.

On May 7, Perez allegedly hit Byern Smith, 51, near 7<sup>th</sup> and Lawrence streets, prosecutors said. Smith died as a result of his injuries.

Bail is set at \$80,000. If convicted as charged, the defendant faces a possible maximum sentence of five years in custody.

Case BA487325 remains under investigation by the Los Angeles Police Department, Central Traffic 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.