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NEWS RELEASE

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Man Sentenced for Carjacking, Kidnapping in Pacific Palisades Crime Spree

A 50-year-old man was sentenced yesterday to 141 years to life in state prison after being convicted for a 2014 crime spree in Pacific Palisades, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced today.

Brian Thomas Cruz, a transient, was found guilty during a court trial of four felony counts of assault with a deadly weapon, an automobile; three counts of carjacking; two counts each of first-degree burglary, person present, second-degree robbery, criminal threats and reckless driving causing specified injury, a bone fracture; and one count each of kidnapping and false imprisonment by violence.

Case SA088296 was prosecuted by Deputy District Attorney Eugene Hanrahan.

On Aug. 11, 2014, Cruz went into a woman's home and forced her at knifepoint to drive him in her car, which she deliberately crashed so she could run away, the prosecutor said.

The defendant went on to carjack a second woman, a teacher near Palisades High School, ramming the stolen car into several other vehicles, the prosecutor added.

Cruz then abandoned the teacher's vehicle and entered a home where he forced a third woman to surrender her car keys. The defendant crashed that victim's car into other vehicles before running a red light and colliding into a car near Webb Way in Malibu, according to evidence presented at the 2019 trial.

The case was investigated by the Los Angeles Police Department, West Los Angeles 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.