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NEWS RELEASE

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## **Driver Sentenced for Fatal Torrance Crash**

One of two drivers found guilty of killing another motorist after both ran a red light in Torrance three years ago was sentenced today to 11 years in state prison, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced.

Darryl Leander Hicks Jr., 32, of Los Angeles was sentenced after being found guilty earlier this year of one felony count each of vehicular manslaughter and reckless driving on a highway causing injuries and death. A jury also found true allegations that Hicks fled the scene.

Deputy District Attorney Ryan Gould said Hicks also was found guilty of one felony count each of hit-and-run driving resulting in death or serious injury to another person and hit-and-run driving resulting in injury to another person.

Co-defendant Tung Ming, 24, of Rancho Palos Verdes also was convicted of one felony count each of vehicular manslaughter and reckless driving on a highway causing injuries and death.

In June, Ming was sentenced to two years and eight months in state prison.

On March 7, 2017, Hicks crashed into Ming and then fled the scene near Crenshaw Boulevard and Silver Spur Road. Ming then began chasing Hicks and both defendants ran a red light near Crenshaw Boulevard and Crest Road, the prosecutor said.

Both defendants ended up colliding with a van, killing Jesse E. Esphorst, 16, and seriously injuring the driver, Esphorst's father, the prosecutor added. Hicks then also fled the scene of the fatal crash.

Case YA095989 was investigated by the Torrance 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.