

*Jackie Lacey*  
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NEWS RELEASE

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## **Woman Pleads to Killing Pedestrian, Fleeing Scene**

A woman has pleaded no contest for crashing into a man as he walked along a downtown Los Angeles street and fleeing the scene, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced today.

Maria Perez, 59, of Bell Gardens entered the plea yesterday to one felony count of hit-and-run driving resulting in death.

Deputy District Attorney Christine Yi said Perez was immediately sentenced to three years in state prison as a result of the plea.

On May 7, Perez hit Byern Smith, 51, near 7<sup>th</sup> and Lawrence streets and fled after hitting him, the prosecutor said. Smith died as a result of his injuries.

Case BA487325 was investigated 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.