

# Jackie Lacey

District Attorney

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NEWS RELEASE

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## Pair Plead to Vehicular Manslaughter in Street-Racing Death

Two men pleaded no contest today to vehicular manslaughter in a street-racing death last year in Torrance, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced.

Luis Samaniego Barajas and Zachary Frank Leets, both 20 years old, are expected to be sentenced to four years in state prison under a negotiated plea agreement, said Deputy District Attorney David Zygielbaum. The sentencing hearing is scheduled for Jan. 7 in Department C of the Los Angeles County Superior Court, Torrance Branch.

On June 3, 2017, the defendants were racing their vehicles on Pacific Coast Highway when Samaniego Barajas' vehicle crashed against a center divider, sending it airborne into oncoming traffic near 242nd Street, the prosecutor said. The vehicle crashed head-on with a car driven by Maximillian "Alexis" Rojas, 20, who died as a result of his injuries.

Case YA096289 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.