

Jackie Lacey

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NEWS RELEASE

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Man Convicted of Carjacking After Televised Police Pursuit

A 28-year-old man was convicted today of carjacking a woman in Los Angeles and leading police on a three-hour pursuit, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced.

At today's court appearance, Carlos Mercado (dob 5/31/89) of Whittier pleaded no contest to a felony count of carjacking in case VA144178. Following the plea, the defendant was immediately sentenced to 11 years in state prison.

Deputy District Attorney Rachel Bevitz, who prosecuted the case, said on the morning of March 1, 2017, Mercado approached a woman sitting in her vehicle located near 68th Street and Central Avenue in Los Angeles.

The defendant then ordered the woman to get out. When the woman refused, Mercado pulled the victim out of the car and drove off in her vehicle, the prosecutor added.

Following the assault, the victim alerted a bystander, who then called police, according to the prosecutor.

Law enforcement was informed about the attack and soon located the vehicle in South Gate, the prosecutor said. The pursuit continued and eventually ended in Redondo Beach, where the defendant surrendered after police successfully conducted a PIT maneuver on the vehicle, the prosecutor added.

The case was investigated by the Los Angeles County Sheriff's 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.