

*Jackie Lacey*  
District Attorney  
<http://da.lacounty.gov>



NEWS RELEASE

**Media Contact:**

Paul Eakins  
Public Information Officer  
213-257-2000  
[PEakins@da.lacounty.gov](mailto:PEakins@da.lacounty.gov)  
Twitter: @LADAOffice

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## **Man Charged with Assaulting Officers During Car Chase**

A Pasadena man has been charged with trying to hit police officers with his car during a pursuit over the weekend, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced today.

Tom Rojas (dob 8/12/81) pleaded not guilty yesterday afternoon to two felony counts of assault upon a peace officer, one felony count each of fleeing a pursuing peace officer's vehicle while driving recklessly and vandalism causing more than \$400 in damage, and one misdemeanor count of hit-and-run driving resulting in property damage. The charges in case BA475759, which was filed late yesterday, include allegations that he has prior felony convictions.

A preliminary hearing is scheduled for March 25 in Department 32 of the Foltz Criminal Justice Center.

In the early morning of March 9, Rojas allegedly drove his vehicle into a glass door at a store in the 1600 block of Town Center Drive in Montebello, prosecutors said.

Police officers responding to the incident located the vehicle a short time later at Paramount and Whittier boulevards in Pico Rivera. The defendant allegedly fled officers, who pursued him for almost an hour on surface streets.

During the pursuit, Rojas is accused of hitting one police vehicle with his car and attempting to hit another one. He was finally arrested when he drove into a dead-end street.

No officers were injured in the chase.

Rojas faces a possible maximum sentence of eight years and two months in state prison if convicted as charged.

Prosecutors are requesting that bail be set at \$170,000.

The case remains under investigation by the Montebello 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.