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NEWS RELEASE

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Man Charged with Assaulting Officers, Child During Hollywood Pursuit

A 27-year-old man was charged today with leading police on a pursuit in which he crashed his vehicle into several police vehicles and a car with a 1-year-old boy on board, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced.

Pharuehat Wilaisophakun (dob 9/12/91) of Los Angeles faces three felony counts of assault with a deadly weapon, a car, two felony counts each of assault upon a peace officer and hit-and-run driving resulting in injury to another person and one felony count of fleeing a pursuing peace officer's motor vehicle while driving recklessly.

Case BA476763 also charges Wilaisophakun with four misdemeanor counts of hit-and-run driving resulting in property damage.

Arraignment is scheduled today in Department 40 of the Foltz Criminal Justice Center.

On April 4, the defendant was driving a 2018 Prius when he allegedly got into a crash but did not stop, prosecutors said. A police officer witnessed the crash and began pursuing the car.

During the pursuit, Wilaisophakun is charged with driving at a high rate of speed, running red lights and weaving in and out of traffic. When three police vehicles attempted to block the defendant's vehicle, Wilaisophakun reportedly rammed the vehicles, prosecutors added.

Later, the defendant allegedly crashed into a parked vehicle with a baby aboard. The baby was not injured. The pursuit finally ended when the Prius crashed into a truck and police vehicles pinned his car, blocking his path, prosecutors said.

Wilaisophakun faces a possible maximum sentence of 22 years in state prison if convicted as charged. Bail is scheduled at \$340,000.

The case remains under investigation by the Los Angeles Police Department, Hollywood 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.