

Jackie Lacey
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NEWS RELEASE

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**Truck Driver Pleads to Gross Vehicular Manslaughter
in Fatal Collision With LAPD Officer**

The driver of a truck that crashed into a Los Angeles police cruiser, killing the officer, pleaded no contest today to gross vehicular manslaughter, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced.

Robert Maldonado, 48, entered his plea before Los Angeles County Superior Court Judge Hilleri Merritt.

Sentencing is scheduled for April 19, 2018. If Maldonado complies with the terms and conditions of the plea agreement, he will be eligible to have the felony conviction reduced to a misdemeanor.

On March 7, 2014, Maldonado was driving his truck on Loma Vista Drive in Beverly Hills when the brakes failed. His vehicle struck a police car driven by Officer Nicholas Lee, who suffered fatal injuries.

A California Highway Patrol investigation found the truck's brakes failed because Maldonado did not properly maintain and inspect the vehicle as required by law.

[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.