

Jackie Lacey

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NEWS RELEASE

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Couple Who Owns Long Beach Trucking Company Charged With Workers' Compensation Fraud

The owners of a Long Beach trucking company are facing workers' compensation charges for allegedly underreporting payroll by \$4.7 million over a four-year period, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced.

Alvin Shih Chen (dob 5/5/61) and Fiona Chen (11/15/69) were each charged in case BA445033 with 18 counts of workers' compensation fraud and five counts of failing to pay taxes. They are scheduled to be arraigned today in Department 30 of the Foltz Criminal Justice Center.

Deputy District Attorney Angela Brunson of the Healthcare Fraud Division is prosecuting the case.

Alvin and Fiona Chen are co-owners of Metro Worldwide, Inc. Between 2009 and 2013, they are accused of reporting a payroll of nearly \$3 million to the State Compensation Insurance Fund when the actual amount was \$7.6 million.

Companies pay significantly reduced workers' compensation premiums when they underreport payroll. Losses are estimated to be more than \$2.1 million.

Prosecutors are recommending bail be set at \$950,000. If convicted as charged, both defendants face up to 36 years in state prison.

The case remains under investigation by the California Department of Insurance.

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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.