

Jackie Lacey
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NEWS RELEASE

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Man Charged with Killing Postal Carrier in Crash

A man has been charged with fatally hitting a postal carrier while driving at a high rate of speed in December in Commerce, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced today.

Ismael Eduardo Sotelo (dob 4/18/99) faces one felony count of vehicular manslaughter with gross negligence, according to the criminal complaint in case BA476719.

He is scheduled to be arraigned today in Department 30 of the Foltz Criminal Justice Center. The case was filed for arrest warrant on April 5.

On Dec. 3, 2018, Sotelo is accused of driving above the posted speed limit and crashing into Joel Perales as the victim was unloading packages from the back of his U.S. Postal Service truck on Atlantic Boulevard near Como Street. The victim died of his injuries.

Sotelo faces a possible maximum sentence of six years in state prison if convicted as charged. Prosecutors are recommending bail be set at \$50,000.

The case remains under investigation 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.