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NEWS RELEASE

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## **Two Drivers Charged in Fatal Torrance Crash**

Two drivers who were reportedly involved in a hit-and-run crash have been charged with killing another motorist after both allegedly ran a red light in Torrance, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced.

Deputy District Attorney Ryan Gould said Darryl Leander Hicks Jr. (dob 5/25/88) of Los Angeles and Tung Ming (dob 8/10/95) of Rancho Palos Verdes both are charged with one felony count each of vehicular manslaughter and reckless driving on a highway causing injuries and death.

Hicks also is charged with one felony count each of hit-and-run driving resulting in death or serious injury to another person and hit-and-run driving resulting in injury to another person and one misdemeanor count each of hit-and-run driving resulting in property damage and driving when privilege suspended or revoked.

Case YA095989 includes allegations that Hicks fled the scene and Ming personally inflicted great bodily injury in the vehicular manslaughter count.

Arraignment is scheduled today in Department 4 of the Los Angeles County Superior Court, Torrance Branch.

On March 7, Hicks is accused of crashing into Ming and then fleeing the scene near Crenshaw Boulevard and Silver Spur Road. Ming allegedly began chasing Hicks and both defendants ran a red light near Crenshaw Boulevard and Crest Road, the prosecutor said.

Both defendants are accused of crashing into a vehicle, killing Jesse E. Esphorst, 16, and seriously injuring the driver, Esphorst's father, the prosecutor added. Hicks is charged with also fleeing the scene of the fatal crash.

If convicted as charged, Hicks faces a possible maximum sentence of more than 12 years in state prison and Ming faces 9 years in prison.

The case remains under investigation by the Torrance 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.