

Jackie Lacey
District Attorney
<http://da.lacounty.gov>



NEWS RELEASE

Media Contact:

Ricardo Santiago
Public Information Officer
213-257-2000
RSantiago@da.lacounty.gov
Twitter: @LADAOoffice

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Lancaster Man Charged with Murder of Convenience Store Clerk

A 21-year-old Lancaster man is scheduled in court today to face a murder charge for the February killing of a convenience store clerk, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced.

Deonta Darrell Johnson Jr., aka Fat Boy, (dob 9/12/96) faces one count of murder with a special circumstance allegation of murder during the commission of a robbery.

Arraignment is scheduled today in Department A-01 of the Los Angeles County Superior Court, Antelope Valley Branch. Case MA073696 was filed for warrant on April 27.

The criminal complaint includes allegations of gang affiliation and use of a handgun.

On Feb. 19, Johnson and a 16-year-old accomplice allegedly walked into a convenience store on the 44400 block of Division Street and, soon after, Johnson approached the clerk, pulled out a gun and demanded money, prosecutors said. Victim John Ruh, 61, closed the cash register and Johnson then allegedly shot him three times, prosecutors added.

The defendant is being held with no bail. He faces the death penalty or life in prison without the possibility of parole if convicted as charged. A decision on whether to seek the death penalty will be made at a later date.

The underage accomplice faces one count of murder and attempted robbery in Juvenile Court.

The case is being investigated 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.