

Jackie Lacey
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NEWS RELEASE

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Man Pleads in West Covina Fatal DUI Crash

A 20-year-old man pleaded no contest today to driving under the influence of a drug, resulting in the death of one passenger and injuring another, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's office announced.

At today's court appearance, Andrew James Gomez of La Puente pleaded no contest to two felony counts in case KA115173: gross vehicular manslaughter while intoxicated and driving under the influence of a drug causing injury.

Following the plea, Los Angeles County Superior Court Judge Salvatore Sirna immediately sentenced the defendant to four years and six months in state prison.

Deputy District Attorney Lauren Guber, who prosecuted the case, said in the early morning of April 29, 2017, Gomez was driving under the influence of a drug with three passengers in his vehicle when he crashed his car into a pole.

Victim Jesse Jaco, 20, was pronounced dead at the scene, the prosecutor said. A second passenger also suffered an injury, the prosecutor added.

Following the crash, police arrived and Gomez was arrested in connection with the fatal collision.

The case was investigated by the West Covina 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.