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NEWS RELEASE

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Man Charged with Fatally Stabbing Brother-in-Law in El Monte

A Canadian resident was charged today with allegedly killing his brother-in-law with a knife in the parking lot of an El Monte bowling alley, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced.

Loi Vi Tran (dob 8/4/78) of Calgary faces one count of murder with the special circumstance allegation of lying in wait, making him eligible for the death penalty. The charge also includes an allegation of using a deadly and dangerous weapon, a kitchen knife, according to the criminal complaint in case KA119088.

Tran is expected to be arraigned this afternoon in Department F of the Los Angeles County Superior Court, Pomona Branch.

According to prosecutors, Tran was visiting Southern California from Canada and on Sept. 15 went bowling with his extended family. After the group played for several hours that night, the defendant paid for everyone's games and went outside to wait for them.

At that point, shortly after midnight, Tran is accused of stabbing his brother-in-law Stephen Tran, 45, of El Monte, several times in the chest after an exchange of words. Officers with the El Monte Police Department arrived at the scene and arrested the defendant.

The victim was transported to a hospital where he died.

If convicted as charged, Tran faces the death penalty or life in state prison without the possibility of parole. The decision whether to seek capital punishment will be made at a later date.

Prosecutors are requesting that bail be denied.

The case remains under investigation by the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, Homicide Bureau.

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.