

Jackie Lacey
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NEWS RELEASE

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**Convicted Rapist to Stand Trial for Sexually Assaulting
Women Who Accepted a Ride in His Car**

A Van Nuys man pleaded not guilty today after being ordered to stand trial for the sexual assault of two women who accepted a ride in his vehicle on separate occasions, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced.

Deputy District Attorney Angela Jordan said Enefiok Joseph Edem Jr. (dob 4/18/84) was held to answer on Oct. 11 for one count of kidnapping to commit a sexual assault, sexual battery by restraint, forcible rape, assault with intent to commit a sexual crime and attempted forcible rape.

Case LA085808 includes an allegation that Edem was convicted in 2008 of forcible rape.

The defendant is scheduled back on Nov. 2 for a pretrial hearing in Department R of the Los Angeles County Superior Court, Van Nuys Branch.

On April 16, the defendant allegedly approached a woman waiting on a bus stop and offered her a ride, the prosecutor said. According to evidence presented at the preliminary hearing, Edem then drove to another location and attempted to rape the victim who managed to escape.

The defendant also is charged with sexually assaulting another woman who accepted a ride in his vehicle on June 8, 2015.

If convicted as charged, Edem faces a possible maximum sentence of life in state prison. Bail is set at \$1.17 million.

The case remains under investigation by the Los Angeles Police Department, Van Nuys Station.

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.