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CONTACT: Frank Mateljan - PIO
(213) 978-8340 (office)
(213) 479-5675 (mobile)

**From the Office of the City Attorney
Carmen A. Trutanich**



Suite 800, City Hall East
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Phone: 213-978-8340 Fax: 213-978-2093
<http://www.atty.lacity.org>

****PRESS RELEASE****

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2009

**LOS ANGELES MAN CHARGED WITH SEXUALLY
ASSAULTING FEMALE MOTORISTS**

LOS ANGELES – The City Attorney's Special Trials Unit has filed multiple counts of sexual battery and battery against a Los Angeles man identified in a series of attacks on female motorists. The case was filed by Supervising Attorney Richard Kraft and will be prosecuted by deputy city attorney Chadd Kim

Carlos Mares, 35, was named in a 22-count criminal complaint filed this week and is currently being held on \$360,000 bail. If convicted, Mares could be sentenced to up to 15 years in jail and be required to comply with lifetime sex offender registration.

Mares is alleged to have engaged in a year-long victimization of young female drivers by luring them to stop based upon a phony claim of "sparking brakes." After using this ruse to get the women to pull over, the defendant allegedly groped them while purporting to help them with the car's brakes. Los Angeles Police Department detectives from Operations-West Bureau are continuing to investigate and identify additional sexual assault victims.

The case has been set for a pretrial hearing on November 24, 2009 in Department 40 of the Los Angeles Superior Court.

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