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MONDAY, MAY 5, 2008

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L.A. CITY ATTORNEY ROCKY DELGADILLO FILES CRIMINAL CHARGES AGAINST ASST. LAFD CHIEF, WIFE, SON FOR HIT AND RUN COVER-UP

LOS ANGELES – Los Angeles City Attorney Rocky Delgadillo, the City's chief prosecutor, today announced he has filed multiple criminal charges against a Los Angeles Fire Department Assistant Chief, his wife, and their son following their attempted cover-up of a hit and run collision.

Los Angeles Fire Department Assistant Chief Robert Franco, 52, and his wife Gerri Franco, 48, were charged with one count each of conspiracy, giving false information to a peace officer and obstructing an investigation. Their son, Richard Franco, 19, was also charged with one count of failing to leave information after a crash and one count of conspiracy.

If convicted, Robert Franco and Gerri Franco could each face up to two years and six months in jail and \$3,000 in fines. Richard Franco could face up to one year and six months in jail and \$2,000 in fines.

The charges stem from a crash which occurred at approximately 2:00 a.m. on November 3, 2007, when Richard Franco slammed his black Toyota Tundra truck into two parked cars on 37th Street in San Pedro, according to the filed complaint. As a result of the collision, the vehicle Richard Franco was driving overturned. According to the complaint, Richard Franco immediately used his cell phone to call his mother, Gerri Franco.

The complaint alleges that a few minutes later, Robert and Gerri Franco arrived at the scene. Richard Franco was picked up and driven away by his mother while Robert Franco stayed behind. Shortly thereafter, Gerri Franco returned to the scene and picked up her husband and they drove away.

The complaint also alleges that within minutes, Gerri Franco and Robert Franco returned to the collision site and gave false information to the police and paramedics, telling them that Gerri Franco had been driving the truck that collided with the two parked cars. Their son was not at the scene, and the police were initially unaware of his involvement in the crash. During the course of the investigation, neighbors who witnessed the accident came forward to advise the police of the actual events of the collision.

Arraignment is set for May 22 in Department 7 of the Long Beach Superior Court.