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L.A. CITY ATTORNEY ROCKY DELGADILLO SECURES CONVICTION OF UNLICENSED AMUSEMENT RIDE OPERATOR

LOS ANGELES – Los Angeles City Attorney Rocky Delgadillo today announced his office's Special Trials Unit has secured the conviction of an East Los Angeles amusement ride owner for unsafe children's rides he was operating without a valid permit.

Michael Garcia, 44, pled no contest to three counts of violating the California Labor Code for operating unsafe children's rides without a proper permit. Commissioner Timothy Murphy sentenced Garcia to 36 months probation and 45 days of CalTrans work. During the period of probation, Garcia is ordered to keep his rides in safe condition and not to operate without a valid permit.

Garcia is also required to keep the California Division of Occupational Safety and Health (CAL OSHA) advised of his itinerary, maintain insurance as required by law and reimburse CAL OSHA for investigative costs.

On September 29, 2006 Garcia was operating six amusement rides in the parking lot of Our Lady of the Rosary Tapia Catholic Church in East Los Angeles without valid operating permits from CAL OSHA. All six rides had safety violations and were shut down when inspected the following day. Violations were based on statements from the parish priest and other witnesses regarding safety.

Results of the investigation were forwarded to Delgadillo's Special Trials Unit of the Criminal and Special Litigation Branch for prosecution by deputy city attorney Matthew St. George.

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