



Metro

Daily Brief

Wednesday, August 09, 2006

20060809-0

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Closed-Circuit Television Recordings Lead to Arrest in Metro Blue Line Robberies

Video recordings from closed-circuit TV cameras played a key role in the arrest of a suspect believed to be involved in three armed robberies in July at the Metro Blue Line 103rd Street station. The video permitted Los Angeles Sheriff's Department Transit Services Bureau detectives to view the incidents and identify one of five suspects, all male juveniles. Detectives arrested this suspect at his home on August 2nd and recovered a pellet gun resembling a semi-automatic handgun – a weapon potentially used in the robberies. According to the detectives' report, the suspect confessed to his involvement in all three incidents and provided information regarding the other four suspects.

Federal Air Marshals on Metro Red Line

Armed Federal Air Marshals (FAMs) will be riding the Metro Red Line system this week in preparation for a planned joint training exercise with Transit Services Bureau (TSB) deputies scheduled to take place from August 15-17. During next week's operation, the FAMs will partner with TSB Canine and Special Problems Unit (SPU) deputies and may be identifiable by their uniform or a marked jacket. A covert team consisting of plainclothes SPU deputies and FAMs will trail the uniformed team looking for suspicious reactions to the patrol. This is strictly a routine pre-planned event, similar to one that was conducted last year.

Coverage will include the Metro Red Line Stations of Union Station, Pershing Square, 7th & Metro, Hollywood/Highland, Universal City and North Hollywood.

FAMs are Federal law enforcement officers that protect U.S. air carriers, airports, passengers and crews.

Vandalism Suspect Arrested

Earlier today, Transit Service Bureau detectives and Chatsworth Special Problems Unit deputies successfully served a search warrant on a juvenile vandalism suspect in the San Fernando Valley. The suspect was taken into custody and additional evidence linking him to his crimes was recovered. The juvenile tagger, who called himself "Shok", was responsible for causing over \$50,000 dollars worth of damage to Division 8 and 10 buses assigned to line 761, which operates primarily through Van Nuys. The suspect was booked into Sylmar Juvenile Hall and will be charged with 31 counts of felony vandalism.

Summer Business Mixer and Membership Drive

Metro's Diversity & Economic Opportunity Department (DEOD) and the Transportation Business Advisory Council (TBAC) will host a [Summer Business Mixer and Membership Drive](#) on Thursday, August 24th from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. on the third floor of the Metro Headquarters building.

This event will provide TBAC Organizations and their members an opportunity to network with Metro's Procurement & Material Management Department. TBAC has also extended a membership invitation to various non-profit organizations that foster economic development for small, minority, women, and disadvantaged-owned firms.

Times Inquires About Metro Bus Stop Safety Near Schools

Following up on a [Los Angeles Times story today](#) about increased robberies in the San Fernando Valley, a reporter was informed by a Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) officer that some teenagers have been victims of so-called "I-Pod crimes" at Metro Bus stops near schools in the Valley. Los Angeles Sheriff's Department (LASD) Commander Dan Finkelstein told the reporter he knew of only one such crime. However, he noted that LAPD would have better knowledge of these crimes because, under an MOU, LAPD patrols the bus stops while LASD is responsible for responding to incidents on Metro Buses. Commander Finkelstein also reported that he maintains regular contact with the Valley's LAPD Commander and confirmed that he plans to address this issue during their next discussion. Additionally, a task force composed of LAPD, LASD, Los Angeles Unified School District Police and Metro Operations has also recently been convened to address bus stop safety improvements for students at 12 specific secondary schools throughout the City of Los Angeles. A story is

expected tomorrow morning.

Metro Beats the Heat

Spanish news station Channel 34 expects to air an item tonight at 6:00 p.m. detailing the preparations being made by various public agencies in Los Angeles to address the area's next heat wave. From a Metro perspective, a reporter was told that the agency's 2,100 Clean Natural Gas buses and all trains are equipped with air-conditioning to keep passengers comfortable during their daily commutes.

Of Note

On this day in 1991, the Southern California Regional Rail Authority (SCRRA), a five county joint powers authority, was created. The SCRRA oversees the commuter rail service known as Metrolink. The commuter rail system serves over 40,000 passengers a day, with seven routes and 54 stations along 512 route miles.

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