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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MTA BUSES TO TURN INTO CANDYLAND EXPRESS ON HALLOWEEN; BUS OPERATORS ALSO TO GET INTO THE SPIRIT OF THE DAY

Most passengers traveling aboard MTA buses Thursday will not recognize their drivers - but behind that Halloween makeup, or mask, still exists that same reliable, devoted and courteous individual.

And, to truly prove the person behind that costume is customer oriented, on Halloween each MTA bus operator will be handing out individually-wrapped pieces of free candy to some 1.1 million boarding passengers.

"It's Halloween, so we're getting into the spirit and treating our passengers," said Ellen Levine, Executive Officer, Transit Operations. "Like our slogan says: 'We know how to treat you.' This is also a great morale builder for the operators who need some fun once in a while."

Bus operators will be eligible to win an official MTA Halloween T-shirt if their costume is deemed the best by their division manager. An estimated 500,000 pieces of candy will be distributed.

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MTA-230

**STATEMENT BY MTA BOARD CHAIRMAN LARRY ZARIAN ON THE DEATH
OF BOARD MEMBER RAUL R. PEREZ**

We at MTA are deeply saddened by the passing of Board Member Raul R. Perez who died Saturday at the age of 54.

Raul was a native of Guadalajara, Mexico. He earned a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration from the University of Guadalajara, and attended East Los Angeles College and UCLA. He went on to a career as a mortgage banker and real estate broker.

Raul was well liked and well respected. He was elected to the Huntington Park City Council in 1990, and also served as that city's mayor. In 1993 he was chosen as an MTA Board alternate, and was elected as a Board member by the City Selection Committee in September of 1994.

Raul brought a strong commitment to his position on the MTA Board. He served on several committees, chairing the high profile Construction Committee, and serving as Vice-Chairman of the Real Estate and Asset Development Committee.

He also belonged to several civic and community organizations including the YMCA, Huntington Park Elks Lodge, Al Malaikah Shrine Temple, Downey Shrine Club and the Huntington Park Masonic Lodge.

Raul was a dedicated servant to both his city and Los Angeles County, and he was a friend to me and to us all. We will miss him greatly. We wish his wife Rosa and his two children God speed.