



# NEWS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## MTA TO HIRE 12 NEW POLICE OFFICERS TO PATROL EAST LOS ANGELES

The MTA will hire 12 new Transit Police officers to establish a Transit Community Based Policing Program in the community of East Los Angeles.

Under the program, police officers are assigned to specific geographic areas and encouraged to develop a close working relationship with the community.

MTA police officers will meet on a regular basis with community based organizations, business leaders, merchants, schools and other community members to forge a productive and beneficial relationship.

Officers also will maintain a close relationship with local law enforcement agencies and other government agencies to ensure coordinated police service.

"This program demonstrates our strong commitment to maintaining the safety and security of our passengers and operators," said Larry Zarian, MTA chairman.

Funding for the service is provided in part by a \$900,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Justice under a program entitled COPS Universal Hiring Program, authorized by President Bill Clinton's 1994 Crime Bill.

"MTA's innovative Community Based Policing will contribute to build safer and stronger neighborhoods in the East Los Angeles community," said MTA Transit Police Chief Sharon Papa.

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The Transit Community Based Policing Program of East Los Angeles follows a similar program successfully implemented in South Central Los Angeles in April 1995. The MTA Transit Police is providing a model for the nation in this new approach to police work for transit police agencies.

The program will be implemented in East Los Angeles in April 1996.

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