



# NEWS

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## LOS ANGELES COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT SET TO PATROL METRO BLUE AND GREEN LINES AND METRO BUS SERVICE NOVEMBER 2

Under contract with the MTA, the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department (LASD) will begin patrolling the Metro Blue and Green Lines on Sunday, November 2.

In addition, the contract calls for the LASD to patrol MTA buses in all unincorporated areas of the county as well as buses operated by 17 other municipal and contract operators.

"This agreement with the Sheriff's Department will provide Metro bus and rail passengers better public safety and will provide citizens with a unified approach to crime fighting and emergency services," said Los Angeles Mayor and MTA Board Chairman Richard J. Riordan.

The contract transfers approximately 114 MTA Transit Police Officers into the Sheriff's Department, about 40 percent of MTA's police force. A total of 152 sheriff's deputies will be assigned to patrol the Metro system.

"The men and women of the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department look forward to the opportunity afforded by this merger to provide exceptional law enforcement services to the residents of Los Angeles County," said Sheriff Sherman Block. "We are all looking forward to the new working experiences and career opportunities provided by this contract for both the current deputies and the former MTA Transit Police officers."

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Under the program, overlapping administrative costs will be eliminated. The new program also calls for placing civilian fare inspectors on Metro trains, who will work in teams to check for fares and provide passenger service.

The transit policing contract between the MTA and the LASD through the remainder of the fiscal year is approximately \$12.6 million.

Citizens wanting to report an incident can call the Sheriff's Department Transit Services Bureau at (213) 563-5000.

A similar contract transfer of MTA Transit Police Officers to the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) is scheduled for November 23. The LAPD will have responsibility for all Metro Buses within the City of Los Angeles and will patrol the Metro Red Line subway system.

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