

# Quality of Life in Transit Stations and Vehicles

LASD and Metro Security Partnership

Operations Committee

April 17, 2008



**Metro**

# Current Situation



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# Statistics

- On any given day – 68,600 homeless people within Los Angeles County\*
- On any given night – 40,100 homeless people within the City of Los Angeles\*
- Initial estimates of homeless riders on rail– approx. 200 at early mornings and late evenings
- Initial estimates of homeless at rail stations prior to opening: approx. 60-100
- Initial estimates of homeless riders on bus – approx. less than 200 throughout the system; vast majority ride the “Owl Service”

\* 2007 Los Angeles Homeless County Executive Summary

# Current Operations

- Uniformed Fare Enforcement
- Uniformed Deployment
- Uniformed Metro Security Deployment
- Special Problems Unit (SPU)
  - Plain clothes operations
  - Uniformed operations
- K-9 Handler Deployment
  - Terrorist Deterrence
  - Fare Enforcement

# Revised Operations

- Crisis Response Unit (CRU)
  - Humane Social Services
- Fallback Operations
  - Clear Trains as Safety Sweeps
  - Train declared “out of service” during operation
- Open Communication – Metro Security, Rail Operations Control Closed Circuit Televisions (CCTV), Custodians
- Directed Patrols
  - LASD and Metro Security Sweep Team
    - 7th/Metro
    - Union Station
    - Wilshire/Vermont
    - North Hollywood



# Revised Operations

## Fixed Post Operations

- Union Station
- 7<sup>th</sup> & Metro
- North Hollywood
- Combined Sworn & Fare Inspectors
- Metro Security Sweep Teams
- Regular Patrols for Relief
- Expanded Time Coverage

# Additional Actions

- Re-establish the Law Enforcement Service Request (LESR)
- Training – Metro Custodians, Supervisors, et al
  - Safety Awareness
  - Observe and Report
  - Dealing with Recalcitrant or Uncooperative citizens
- Implementation of Metro Code of Conduct (Pending)
- Signage
  - Loitering and Trespassing
- Implementation of a Database
  - Tracking of Recalcitrant or Uncooperative citizen

# Signage and Chain Barrier



# Additional Actions

- Working with VA Chaplin/LASD Chaplin to:
  - Develop assessment to composition of Homeless riders
  - Focus compassionate efforts of support in the areas of:
    - \*Veterans Assistance Resources
    - \*Homeless Shelters Assistance
    - \*Mental Health Assistance
- Focus of Effort Beyond Law Enforcement – Provide Compassionate Assistance Where Possible

# Results To Date

- Rail
  - Fallback operations and safety sweeps have reduced sleeper by over 60%
  - Signage and chaining entry ways at stations has virtually eliminated sleepers at station entrances
  - Fixed post operations has provided more security presence for custodial staff and patrons
  - Improved communication with custodial staff
  - Development of training for custodial staff on communications and response procedures for patron encounters

# Results To Date

- Bus
  - Owl Service still presents challenges
  - Crisis Response Teams focusing on problem
  - LASD developing Mental Evaluation training for Deputies to conduct initial assessments
    - Prioritize calls for Crisis Response Units
    - Allow Deputies to direct lesser needed services to homeless
  - Increase in patrols at bus transit stations
- Transit Fare Passes and Tickets
  - Working with Fare Implementation Team to provide enforcement language on Fare Media
  - Working with County Counsel to research better enforcement laws and procedures

# Other Agencies' Response

- BART
  - BART assumes all passengers possess fare media
  - Enforce Available Laws
  - Sleepers are awakened
  - Correct Fare is collected upon exit of the system
- San Diego
  - Zone Base Fare – Cite People Sleeping
  - Cite People Outside Their Zone
  - Fare Passes are San Diego's property – can be confiscated for rules violation

# Other Agencies'

## Response

- NY Metro
  - NY MTA has an Outreach Program targeting assistance for Homeless
  - NYPD under Class Action for enforcement of voided Loitering law
  - Enforcement of Criminal Activity
- Chicago Transit
  - Anti-Loitering Law struck down in 1999, effecting enforcement of gang member loitering on the streets.
  - Transit enforcement of criminal offenses
  - Awaken sleeping passengers and sleepers on property
- Maryland State
  - Voided Loitering Law in 2007
  - Failure to provide any notice to homeless
  - Destroyed personal possessions during sweep



# Other Agencies'

## Response

- Nevada
  - Has specific law prohibiting “Lodging” on transit property/vehicles
  - Even if they possess a pass
- New Mexico
  - Work with shelters, hospitals, clinics for assistance
  - After many warnings a Criminal Trespass citation issued
  - Set closing hours to opening hours for local soup kitchens
  - Arrests are enforcement of last resort
- Denver Colorado
  - Persons are served with “Service Suspension” notices
  - 1st Offense - Warning Letter, 2nd Offense – 10-day suspension, 3rd Offense – 30-day suspension
  - Continued Offenses 90 days to one year and possible criminal prosecution

**QUESTIONS?**