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Today in S.C.V. History

August 7 1901 - Giant meteor seen over SCV skies; possibly makes landfall in Bouquet-Texas canyon area [story]



L.A. County Metro Officials Vote to Explore Policing Alternatives Courthouse News Service | Friday, Jun 26, 2020



Spurred by mass protests demanding an end to racism and police violence in Los Angeles County, officials from the third-largest transportation agency in the nation voted Thursday to probe transit police use of force standards and pursue alternatives to armed officers patrolling buses, trains and platforms.

The move by the L.A. County Metropolitan Transportation Authority Board of Directors begins to disentangle transit policing from the criminal justice system and instead grounds it in a model that shifts resources to health professionals and community members who can support riders in an emergency.

The regional transit agency is about three years into a 5-year contract worth nearly \$800 million with multiple police agencies who respond to crisis calls across its network.

Public transportation advocates such as the Alliance for Community Transit L.A. have long demanded Metro acknowledge that armed police have disproportionately handed citations to riders who are predominantly Black and Latino.

A 2017 study by the L.A. Labor/Community Strategy Center found Black people comprised only 19% of rail riders on Metro but made up nearly 50% of riders issued police citations.

“With the COVID-19 outbreak in L.A. County, crime in the region has significantly decreased and riders’ concerns regarding safety are firmly focused on public health interventions: ability to socially distance, sanitation stations and vehicle cleanliness,” ACT LA and other advocates said in a June 22 letter to Metro.

“This further demonstrates that dollars spent on police could be better spent on improving transit reliability and frequency, scaling up social workers and sanitation on transit and at stations, piloting a transit ambassador program, and making transit fare-free.”

Advocates have also called on Metro to make rides on public transportation free in order to avoid having police respond to fare evasion, which potentially lead to criminalization or other harms for riders.

In response to advocates’ demands, Metro board member and L.A. City Councilman Mike Bonin introduced a motion to develop alternatives police respond to nonviolent incidents and health emergencies on public transportation networks.

Metro’s 13-member board approved the motion and established the Transit Public Safety Advisory Committee which will explore having social medical professionals and mediators respond to crisis events in the future.

“Metro needs to be at the forefront of that, and make changes that assure that all of its passengers feel safe,” Bonin said in a statement. “That acknowledging that we cannot rely on an armed police presence for every issue, and we need smarter, more effective solutions.”



The board also approved L.A. County Supervisor Janice Hahn’s motion ordering a 90-day probe into use of force standards adopted by Metro contractors, the LAPD, the Long Beach Police Department and other law enforcement agencies who respond to emergency calls.

“While law enforcement agencies play an important role in protecting public safety, it is imperative that Metro review the use of force policies agencies we contract with and guards we employ follow, in order to protect the lives of the transit riders that they encounter,” the motion stated.

Ahead of the board meeting, no member had recommended cutting the regional agency’s overall funding for policing, as has been proposed for the L.A. Police Department and the L.A. Unified School District.

Board chair and Inglewood Mayor James Butts told the panel he believes police have a vital role in making public transportation safe for riders. Elected officials should adhere to their oversight duties instead of calling for cuts to policing funds.

“We don’t have to change police officers, it’s not the number of officers assigned that’s making a difference in the perception of public safety. Change the culture of policing,” said Butts, a former police officer. “There are bad people in the world and that’s why we need police officers.”

Bonin said more than the “culture” of policing must be changed and that seeking better medical emergency training for police misses the point. Protesters’ demands.

“There could be better training for police officers but why do that when we could have actual professionals be doing the work,” Bonin said. “It’s less expensive and more effective.”

Butts and incoming Metro board chair and L.A. Mayor Eric Garcetti said in a joint press conference last week the agency is focusing resources on the public’s confidence that riding public transportation is safe during the Covid-19 pandemic.

The agency is facing a nearly \$2 billion revenue shortfall stemming from a more than 70% drop in ridership across Metro’s transportation network since stay-at-home orders were issued in March.

— *By Martin Macias Jr., CNS*

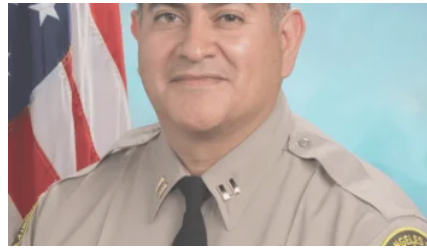
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Latest Additions to SCVNews.com

[City: Organized Sports, Gyms, Churches Can Reserve Field Space](#)

Organized sports, gyms and faith-based organizations can now reserve field space at Santa Clarita parks, Mayor Cameron Smyth said Friday after Los Angeles County issued an update on guidelines allowing youth sports to resume.



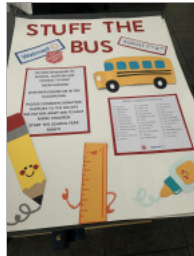
[SCV Senior Center Needs Meals-on-Wheels Delivery Volunteers](#)

The Santa Clarita Valley Senior Center has an urgent need for volunteer Meals on Wheels drivers to keep pace with the rapid growth in recipients and ensure every senior gets a nutritious meal.



[Aug. 7-9: 'Stuff the Bus' With School Supplies Donations at SCV Walmarts](#)

The Salvation Army's Santa Clarita Valley Corps and Walmart are teaming to collect donations of school supplies in the nonprofit's "Stuff the Bus" campaign this weekend.



[#TexasFire in Saugus at 210 Acres, 50% Contained](#)

The #TexasFire in Saugus grew to 210 acres but was 50% contained overnight, according to officials with the Angeles National Forest.



[California Judge to Decide on Uber, Lyft Driver Classification](#)

The fate of more than 100,000 Uber and Lyft drivers lies in the hands of a state court judge, who after a nearly three-hour hearing Thursday lamented his inability to fully predict the ramifications of a potential court order extending employment benefits to California drivers.



[Hart District Updates Online Learning Plans for Fall 2020 Semester](#)

Through the use of 14 subcommittees planning for the upcoming semester, William S. Hart Union High School District officials believe they have improved upon their online learning plans for the upcoming fall semester.



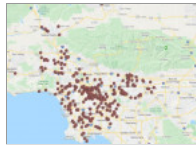
[Unions Sue L.A. County Over 'Reimagine L.A.' Charter Amendment](#)

Multiple police and first-responder unions have filed a lawsuit to remove Los Angeles County's "Reimagine L.A." charter amendment from the November ballot, which would increase spending on housing and mental health services while decreasing funding for law enforcement.



[L.A. County Public Health Tracks 11 COVID-19 Outbreaks in SCV](#)

Los Angeles County Department of Public Health officials have tracked multiple confirmed COVID-19 outbreaks in the Santa Clarita Valley in residential and non-residential settings, which include the SCV Sheriff's Station, a restaurant and other care facilities.



[Deputies Cite 7 for Street Racing in Valencia Industrial Center](#)

Deputies cited seven individuals for suspected street racing in the Valencia Industrial Center early Wednesday morning.



[Federal Court Terminates 1930s Paramount Consent Decrees](#)



[Today in SCV History \(Aug. 7\)](#)

1901 - Giant meteor seen over SCV skies; possibly makes landfall in Bouquet-Texas canyon area [\[story\]](#)

[COC Excels in Online Teaching | Dr. Dianne G. Van Hook](#)

College of the Canyons is widely recognized as a leader in the innovative development of distance and online education, as well as zero cost textbooks for our students.



[Thursday COVID-19 Roundup: L.A. County Surpasses 200,000 Cases, 4,597 Cases in SCV](#)

The Los Angeles County Department of Public Health confirmed Thursday more than 200,000 confirmed COVID-19 cases in Los Angeles County.

[SCV Water Recognized for PFAS Communication Efforts](#)

SCV Water received a statewide award from the California Association of Public Information Officials (CAPIO) for its ongoing communication efforts surrounding per- and polyfluoroalkyl (PFAS) chemicals

[California Education Department to Collaborate with Apple, T-Mobile to Connect Students in Need](#)

SACRAMENTO — State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tony Thurmond announced Wednesday that the California Department of Education (CDE) is collaborating closely with Apple and T-

[Walk to End Alzheimer's Adds New Mobile App Features](#)

The Alzheimer's Association is inviting Santa Clarita Valley residents to join the fight to end Alzheimer's by participating in the Alzheimer's Association Walk to End Alzheimer's on Saturday, Oct. 3.

[Update: Forward Progress on #TexasFire Stopped at 10% Containment](#)

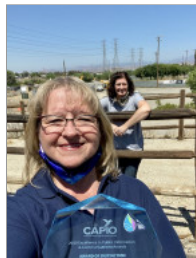
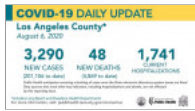
A 150-acre brush fire in Saugus prompted road closures and evacuations Thursday afternoon.



[Boys & Girls Club, Community Sponsors to Hold Back-to-School Peace Bag Giveaway](#)

Boys and Girls Club, Renee Marshall, JCI, LoveSCV, the city of Santa Clarita and other community sponsors are all working together to bring positive community engagement to 300 SCV elementary school, junior high and





Mobile to connect up to 1 million students in need as most schools across California expect to begin the next school year in distance learning.



high school students (ages 5-18) each week for the first 3 weeks in August, beginning Thursday, Aug. 6



[Aug. 8: SCV Water's Sustainable Landscaping Virtual Gardening Class](#)

As we remain focused on keeping our customers, staff and community safe, SCV Water is pleased to announce our new virtual gardening class offerings.



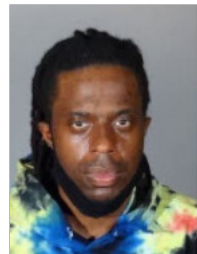
[L.A.-Based Developer Acquires Santa Clarita Distribution Facility for \\$28.4M](#)

Dedeaux Properties in a joint venture with Stockbridge Capital Group has acquired a vacant 214,436-square-foot warehouse and distribution center in Santa Clarita for \$28.4 million.



[Stevenson Ranch Resident, Grammy-Winning Producer Arrested on Sexual Assault Charges](#)

Stevenson Ranch resident and Grammy-winning music producer Detail was arrested Wednesday on suspicion of more than a dozen sexual assault charges, according to the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department.



['High-Risk' SCV Businesses Still Waiting for Reopening Date, Guidelines](#)

As the pandemic progresses, more and more businesses have been given the green light to begin reopening. While some businesses have opened — and closed again as reopenings were rolled back — others deemed “high risk” have yet to see any reprieve.



[Public Safety Committee Passes Wilk Bill Combatting Illegal Dumping](#)

SACRAMENTO - State Sen. Scott Wilk, representing the 21st Senate District, announced Thursday that the Assembly Committee on Public Safety passed Senate Bill 409 (SB 409), a measure Wilk authored to crack down on illegal dumping.



[Today in SCV History \(Aug. 6\)](#)

**1892** - Western actor and Saugus rodeo owner Hoot Gibson born in Nebraska [\[story\]](#)

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