

## **Fare Evasion Citations Jump 146% on Metro Red Line**

(August 26) LAPD citations for fare evasion or misuse of fare media escalated 146 percent on the Metro Red Line during July, topping out at 897 for the month.

Paul Lennon, managing director, MTA Safety and Security, said part of the increase in fare evasion citations can be attributed to a 54 percent increase in Metro Red Line ridership since the opening of the Vermont/Hollywood segment, June 12. Average daily ridership jumped from 38,250 in May to 59,000 in July.

"Because we have new riders who aren't fully acquainted with the subway system, the LAPD has increased fare inspections as a way to ensure the visibility of police presence," Lennon said.

An increase in fare inspections by Sheriff's deputies patrolling the Metro Green Line resulted in 12.5 percent more fare evasion citations in July, for a month's total of 278. Citations on the Metro Blue Line held steady at 915 for the month.

Meanwhile, LAPD officers and Sheriff's deputies made a total of 8,491 Metro Bus boardings in July, a 20 percent increase over June. There were 35 percent fewer arrests on buses, down to 279 in July from 428 in June.

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