

## He Rode in on a Bike, but He Rode Out in a Paddy Wagon

(November 17) The new bike racks and lockers the MTA will install at Metro Rail stations should help ensure against the type of incident reported recently by the LAPD Transit Group, which had been alerted to a series of bike thefts at the stations.

During an investigation of bike thefts on the Metro Red Line, LAPD Sgt. Steve Vinson placed his \$450 bike in an unlocked bike rack at the Hollywood/Western station. Officers watched from a nearby surveillance post to see what would happen next.

As Capt. Sandy Wasson relates it: "It didn't take long before a man came riding up on a bike. He compared the two bikes and decided the sergeant's bike was much nicer. He took it from the rack and rode off. That's when he got a big surprise."

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The suspect was apprehended two blocks from the station. Arrested with a set of burglary tools in his backpack, he allegedly admitted to a string of bike thefts. Wasson said the man was selling the bikes to support a drug habit. Bike thefts at rail stations have virtually stopped since the arrest, police said.

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