

## **LAPD's Pickpocket Detail Nabs Alleged International Criminal**

(Dec. 28) An alleged international pickpocket with prior arrests in New York and Chicago was nabbed recently by the LAPD's Transit Bus Division Pickpocket Detail following a three-hour surveillance.

Officers first spotted Vitaliano Huertas, 59, a native of Columbia, riding a Metro Bus near Wilshire and Vermont. They tracked him as he boarded other MTA and DASH buses and the Metro Red Line where he allegedly attempted to pick several patrons' pockets.

### **Gave a fictitious name**

Undercover officers moved in on Huertas and arrested him when he allegedly lifted the wallet of a patron on Line 207. The suspect gave police a fictitious name during booking, but fingerprints revealed his true identity.

Officers said the man told them he had been trained as a child to pick pockets. Huertas was charged with Grand Theft - Person. He also was wanted on a \$50,000 LAX Police Department warrant. Detective John Simmons is handling the follow-up investigation.

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