

Why didn't Blind Talent Agent Receive \$10,000 Checks MTA Wrote for Him?

(March 13) Did the MTA really neglect blind Hollywood agent Timothy Schumaker, as the *LA Times* reported last Friday, or did something else happen that kept him from receiving \$10,000 the agency's insurance company paid him in 1995?

According to legal documents on file in the County Counsel's office, the MTA's insurer wrote a \$10,000 check in October, 1995, in response to a request by Schumaker's attorney. The attorney wrote that the Schumakers had found an apartment where they could both live and conduct their talent agency business.

Advance against future claims

The money the attorney requested was to be an advance against future claims the talent agent may have had as part of a class action lawsuit filed against the MTA following the Hollywood subway tunnel subsidence.

The chain of events involving Schumaker's participation in the lawsuit and the MTA insurer's two attempts to pay him \$10,000 are discussed in a March 10 letter from Assistant County Counsel Steve Carnevale to the MTA Board. ([Click here to read letter.](#))

County Counsel records show that Schumaker later was withdrawn as a plaintiff in the suit and his claim was to be handled by arbitration. The \$10,000 check never was cashed, but in April, 1999, his attorney requested a second \$10,000 check because the first one had expired.

Second \$10,000 check sent

Although a second \$10,000 check was sent to Schumaker's attorney, the *Times* reported that the talent agent "said he never received a cent from the MTA and has not withdrawn from the...suit."

According to Carnevale's letter to the Board, Schumaker still may request binding arbitration to "demonstrate the value of their claim."

[Back to MTA Report](#)