

## LAPD Investigation of Transfer Thief Leads to Arrests in Bus Burglary

By BILL HEARD, Editor

(May 2) She was given 90 days in jail and three years' probation earlier this year for selling stolen bus transfers. But, when LAPD undercover officers spotted Laura Santos near 8th and Broadway, April 20, she apparently was up to her old tricks.

The officers, members of the LAPD's Revenue Protection Team, videotaped Santos, 36, a man and a teenaged female, allegedly selling stolen transfers. Videotape in hand, they obtained a warrant to search Santos' residence, just north of MacArthur Park.

What happened next led police to even more suspects.

MTA Report  
Dec. 28:  
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### Conducted a surveillance

Rather than mount an immediate search of the Santos residence, the detective team decided to conduct additional investigations, according to Detective Tim Gipson, Revenue Protection Team supervisor.

On May 1, the team followed a man later identified as Pedro Garcia, 43, and his teenaged son, to a Metro Bus layover at Vermont and Hollywood.

Within minutes, Gipson said, the pair forced the door on an idle bus and stole five books of transfers. Garcia and the boy were immediately arrested and brought to MTA Headquarters for questioning.

### Booked for burglary

Garcia later was booked at Parker Center on suspicion of burglary from a motor vehicle. His son was released to relatives, pending an arrest petition to the juvenile court.

With two arrests made, Gipson and his team - detectives Andy Woods, Jose Martinez and Joseph Hopkins, along with uniformed officers Ken Dye and Ed Pigao - served the search warrant on Santos.

The officers seized evidence during the search and arrested Santos. She was booked for violation of probation at the LAPD's 77th Street station.

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