

Rearview Mirror: **Metro Green Line Operator** **Catches Alleged Vandals in the Act**

(Aug. 7) It was thanks to his rearview mirror that he saw them. Three young men allegedly etching windows on a Metro Green Line train. So, even as he continued an eastbound run, recently, Operator Ralph Lee called the cops.

When the train pulled into the Hawthorne station, the three suspects exited. Almost immediately, they were spotted by a rail operations supervisor, who watched as they attempted to board a bus.

But, time wasn't on their side. Before the young men could leave the area, they were stopped by Sheriff's Deputies Fernando Anaya and Aldrin Mora.

A third deputy, Miles Lewis, arrested Valentine Gonzales, 18, of Lynwood on a vandalism charge, and detained two juveniles. Deputies also recovered vandalism tools from the three. The 17-year-olds later were cited and released to their parents, who also were cited.

Damage to the train included etchings on six windows, estimated at a replacement cost of \$1,186.

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