

Board Seeks Ways to Cut Overhead

- **CEO Foresees No 'Massive Layoffs'**



CEO Julian Burke

(Oct. 26) Reflecting continuing concern about the \$438 million operating deficit expected over the next 10 years, the MTA Board moved, Thursday, to look for ways to further reduce costs.

CEO Julian Burke was directed to report to the Board in November concerning whether the agency's next triennial audit can include an emphasis on management and other administrative costs.

In response to discussions about eliminating management overhead, Burke noted that staff cutbacks of 200-plus positions made during his first year as CEO are saving more than \$15 million a year.

No 'massive layoffs'

Burke went to some lengths during the discussion to assure the MTA staff that the audit "will not lead to massive layoffs." In fact, he expressed concern that some areas of the administration currently are understaffed.

In other business, the Board approved a proposal for a joint development of a 3.5-acre retail and office complex adjacent to the Metro Red Line's Westlake/MacArthur Park station.

The proposed Westlake/MacArthur Park development would include 43,000 square feet for restaurants and retail kiosks and a 52,000 square foot market. A 350-student charter middle school could be included in the development.

Directors also approved a motion aimed at increasing the number of bicycle lockers and bicycle racks at the North Hollywood subway station. The motion calls for a staff recommendation on the feasibility of increasing the number of lockers and racks at other transit stations. The staff is to provide a report in November.

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