



- **Teenager Charged with \$42,615 in Vandalism Damage to Metro Red Line**

(Oct. 3, 2001) He's just a kid – 17 years old. But, in only six months, he allegedly caused a hefty year's salary worth – \$42,615 – of vandalism damage in the Metro Red Line system.

Undercover officers of the LAPD's anti-graffiti GHOST field enforcement team last week arrested the juvenile, whose stomach-churning tagger moniker is VOMIT JPK (Just Pure Kaos), and charged him with felony vandalism.

Investigating Officer Todd Waymire has compiled a lengthy list of vandalized property, some of which was destroyed beyond use. The list includes some 30 glass elevator panels, three glass elevator doors, four Plexiglas map directory covers and a number of Metro Red Line train cars.

Most of the vandalism Waymire and the GHOST special enforcement and field enforcement teams has catalogued since April occurred at the Vermont/Santa Monica, Vermont/Sunset and Hollywood/Western subway stations.

Evidence linked the suspect

Evidence recovered during a search of the juvenile's home in the Vermont-Melrose area linked the suspect to the vandalism, police said.

The suspect is scheduled for a Juvenile Court date, which could result in fines, community service or a term in the California Youth Authority facility.

Credited in the investigation are officers Nestor Ayson, James Schwedler and Doug McCombs, who first arrested the suspect for possession of vandalism tools and slap tags with the moniker VOMIT. This allowed Waymire to identify the suspect and his address.

Lt. Steven Flores, Sgt. Helen Lopez, Sgt. Nels Jensen, Sgt. Frank Anguiano, and officers Kevin Huff, Romik Keshishi, Javier Bernal, Anthony Acosta, Angela Downs, Schwedler and Waymire recovered evidence during the search of the suspect's residents that directly linked him to the tagging moniker, police said.

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