

Burbank Chamber Honors Division 15 Operator Mimi Pereira

(Nov. 14, 2001) The Burbank Chamber of Commerce recently recognized Operator Mariam "Mimi" Pereira of Division 15 for outstanding service to the community.

Pereira, who joined the MTA in 1984, was honored for assisting a developmentally disabled passenger on two separate occasions. The surprise award was presented to Pereira at a bus stop in downtown Burbank.

In a letter to the Chamber, Pat Marquet wrote that her daughter, Erika, 21, had just learned to ride the bus from her home to a part-time job at the Burbank YMCA.

"This is a story of 'caring' and going above the call of duty and helping out another person," Marquet wrote.

On two occasions, the path Erika had learned was blocked by construction. Each time, Pereira made a special effort to help Erika cross a busy street and find her way.

"I was truly touched by the actions of this caring individual," wrote Marquet. "She truly deserves this special award that our Chamber of Commerce is giving this bus driver."

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Erika Marquet and her favorite Metro Bus operator, Mimi Pereira of Division 15, had a moment together during the presentation of a Burbank Chamber of Commerce award. Photo courtesy of Burbank Chamber of Commerce.