

Transit System is Safe, Officials Tell Assembly Committee, MTA Board

(Nov. 29, 2001) The Metro System is "very, very safe," the MTA's security chief assured the Board a day after agency officials testified at an Assembly hearing in Sacramento.

"We have received no confirmed credible threats against the MTA," said Paul Lennon, managing director, Systems Safety and Security. "We have a significant security and law enforcement investment in our agency. It's probably one of the largest in this country."

CEO Roger Snoble reported that the MTA presented "a very impressive list of (security) accomplishments" during the hearing before the Assembly Select Committee on the MTA.

"The agency has always been conscious of the different kinds of threats," he said. "We've taken steps to guard against those threats to a large extent." Snoble said the MTA had reassessed its security procedures following the Sept. 11 tragedies.

Lennon said he has arranged for a security review in January by an APTA peer review group and will offer to provide security assessments to local municipal operators. He noted that the MTA will be one of 100 transit agencies in the nation to participate in a U.S. Department of Transportation security review.

In Sacramento, Wednesday, Board Chairman John Fasana testified that there were, "No areas of significant risk or vulnerability requiring immediate attention..." by the MTA.

At the hearing, conducted by Assemblywoman Jenny Oropeza (D-Carson), a former MTA Board member, Snoble said MTA riders have about a 1 in 180 chance of becoming a victim of any type of crime and a 1 in 700 chance of being a victim of a violent crime. He compared that with a 1 in 20 chance of being a crime victim in greater Los Angeles.

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MTA Board Chairman John Fasana told the Assembly Select Committee there are "no areas of significant risk."

Below, Assemblywoman Jenny Oropeza, committee chair, talks with CEO Roger Snoble before the hearing in Sacramento.

PHOTOS: CLAUDETTE MOODY

