

Transient Repays Deputy's Act of Compassion

(Dec. 20, 2001) The man who stepped up to the desk of the Sheriff's station at the Rail Operations Center last Friday was ragged and dirty – apparently a transient. He dragged a crumpled envelope from his pocket and placed it on the counter.

When clerk Shannon Barber cautiously approached, the man mumbled, "Just give it to the sergeant." Which sergeant, she asked.

"Just give it to the sergeant," the man growled, turned on his heel and walked away.

With all the concern about anthrax, Barber was reluctant to touch the suspicious envelope. She alerted Sheriff's Sgt. Ann Ramirez, whose duties include serving on the MTA's risk assessment team.

Ramirez slipped on rubber gloves, then tipped the envelope back and forth in an effort to determine its contents. Dimly, she could see lined paper inside, so she cut open the envelope.

Out fluttered two one-dollar bills and a crudely written note addressed to Sgt. Louis Nunez.

"I am returning the money you gave me for train fare," the note read. "I know you probably have forgotten, but I remember and I'm very grateful. May God bless you and your family. Merry Xmas, sir." It was signed, "Jamal Welch."

The note brought tears to the eyes of those who had witnessed the tense drama, according to Ramirez. She called Nunez's act of compassion to the stranger "...a demonstration of the caliber of personnel employed here."

[Back to Bulletin Board](#)