

Chatsworth Division 8 Operator Gonzalez Makes a Patron's Day

By AMY HOWELL

(Feb. 28, 2002) It started out just like any other workday for Chatsworth Division 8 operator Aaron Gonzalez.

But, January 24 turned out a little different from other workdays, because Gonzalez was faced with what many people would consider a great temptation.



Chatsworth Division 8 Operator Aaron Gonzalez, who found \$741 in cash on his bus, turned the money in to his division's lost and found. PHOTO by AMY HOWELL

At the end of Line 161, while stopped at the Owens Mouth and Vanowen layover area, Gonzalez began a routine inspection of his bus.

He walked down the aisle, looking from row to row for patrons' belongings. At one point, something caught his eye. Picking it up, Gonzalez realized it was a paycheck stub wrapped around a wad of money -- \$741 in cash!

Doing the honorable thing

Gonzalez held on to the money while he was working, assuming that the owner would eventually return looking for it. However, the owner did not come back. At the end of his shift, Gonzalez turned the money in to Division 8's lost and found.

"From the beginning, it was not my money," said Gonzalez. "If we find it, you'll get it back," he said, of the operators' routine inspections.

The owner eventually claimed the money at Division 8's lost and found, providing an ID, a paycheck stub and information about the bus line, location, date and time the money was lost.

"Operator Gonzalez has very high standards. In his two and one half years as an operator for the MTA, he has maintained an exemplary record," said Division 8 Transportation Manager Grant Meyers. "I would expect no less from him. Operator Gonzalez is a credit to Division 8 and the MTA."

Gonzalez is due to receive a commendation for his actions from Division 8 as well.

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