

Gateway Cities Events Features Both Ends of the Age Spectrum

By DAVE HERSHENSON

(Sept. 11, 2003) Metro Gateway Cities sector participated in two events with U.S. Rep. Linda T. Sánchez (D-39), recently, with entirely different audiences – kids and seniors.

Sánchez spoke at both events and thanked MTA for their participation and assistance. MTA provided transportation to a group of seniors, and handed out materials, for the congresswoman's First Annual Senior Fair, Aug. 27, at the Lakewood mall.

The Senior Fair featured a number of information tables with literature and items of interest to senior citizens. Ellen Blackman and Monique Ramos, from the agency's ADA Para-Transit program, handed out materials and answered questions at the event.

Gateway Cities Division Advisory Committee (DAC) member Albert Hinojos drove the bus transporting the seniors from the Watts area to Lakewood, and talked about how they can utilize MTA's bus and rail system to get around the area.

On Aug. 29, Sanchez hosted a Back To School event for the Boys & Girls Club of Whittier at Lee Owens Park. The event included the participation of Gateway Cities DAC members Robert Rodriguez, Dyana Elorriaga, Maria Avila, and Elizabeth Arellano. DAC members staffed the information table and gave a safety and anti-graffiti presentation to a number of the children in attendance.

The DAC safety and anti-graffiti program is currently being revised to ensure uniformity throughout all sectors. Safety and anti-graffiti DAC presentations will be one of the components of a new school program MTA's community relations department will be instituting in partnership with the Los Angeles Times.

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U.S. Rep. Linda T. Sánchez, center, joins Gateway Cities Community Relations Officer Cathy Manzo, at left, Gateway Cities Community Relations Manager Dave Hershenson, and Division 2 Operator Robert Rodriguez at 'Back-to-School' event in Whittier.