

## **Deputies Arrest Alleged Metro Rail Fare Inspector Impostor**

(Oct. 10, 2003) Sheriff's deputies have charged an unemployed security guard with impersonating a Metro Rail fare inspector and felony possession of a deadly weapon, a side-handle baton.

Sgt. Scott Carter and Deputy Rick Callen made the arrest, Oct. 8, at the Metro Gold Line's Sierra Madre Villa station when fare inspectors Tonisha Anderson and Lakeisha Fielders became suspicious of a man dressed in a security guard's uniform.

For months, Metro Rail passengers had complained about a white male in his early 20s who appeared to be a fare inspector and was checking patrons' tickets. He was rude, especially to African American patrons, and sometimes confiscated tickets, including those of Metrolink passengers.

Sheriff's Detective Brian Doyle and Deputy Eric Jaime determined that the suspect, a Palmdale resident, had no authorization to carry a baton. A criminal background check revealed that he already was on probation for impersonating a peace officer.

### **Riding Metro Rail Lines**

The suspect told the officers he had been riding Metro Rail lines and checking passengers' tickets. Sheriff's deputies also had cited the man, at least once, for fare evasion.

The Sheriff's Transit Services Bureau is seeking a restraining order to bar the suspect from all Metro Rail and Metrolink trains and property. A further investigation of the suspect's activities is in progress.

Sheriff's Lt. Mike Parker notes that legitimate fare inspectors always wear the Sheriff's Security Assistant uniform of white shirt, dark blue pants, Sheriff's shoulder patches, metal oval badge, patches indicating "fare inspector," an MTA pin, and carry photo identification.

Any MTA employee who has information about the suspect or his alleged actions should contact Sgt. Brian Lee at 922-3429 or at [brlee@lasd.org](mailto:brlee@lasd.org).

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