

Teams of Sheriff's deputies and fare inspectors kept safety first at Hollywood Christmas Parade.



PHOTOS: LASD LT. MIKE PARKER

Team Effort Kept Subway Crowds Manageable during Hollywood Christmas Parade

By LISA HUYNH

(Dec. 2, 2003) It took a team effort to work crowd control as thousands and thousands of people flooded the Metro Red Line, Sunday evening, to catch a glimpse of the 72nd annual Hollywood Christmas Parade.

Teams of Sheriff's deputies and fare inspectors were on-site to help relieve congestion on the subway platforms at Hollywood/Highland and Hollywood/Vine – the stations that experienced the most crowding.

MTA Revenue personnel offered riders the option of purchasing tickets at three portable fare boxes to help ease the lines of patrons using the ticket vending machines. A four-member MTA Security team was stationed at the ticket area.

Metro Red Line riders traveled to the Hollywood Boulevard stations over a span of a couple of hours, according to Sheriff's Lt. Mike Parker, but when the parade was over, they all wanted to leave at once.

Concentrated efforts

Fortunately, the eastbound parade ended at Hollywood/Highland first, allowing the deputies and fare

The Hollywood Crowd



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inspectors to concentrate their efforts on clearing that station before they had to shift to Hollywood/Vine.

"We directed people to go down stairwells that would either take them to Union Station or to North Hollywood," depending on their destinations, said Parker. "That caused less confusion and allowed more movement on the platform."

Although the officers sometimes had to hold departing crowds on the mezzanine until the platform below cleared, Parker said he heard no complaints and that everyone cooperated.

"I think the reason we were able to get the system back to normal in about an hour was because of the teamwork and good communication that we had from all personnel," said Parker.

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Sheriff's Search and Rescue canine unit kept track.



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