

Rose Queen Megan Chinen and the Royal Court of the 2004 Tournament of Roses join Metro Rail General Manager Gerald Francis at the Memorial Park Station of the Metro Gold Line to promote ridership for New Year's Day festivities. Visitors can ride all day with the new \$3 Metro Day Pass. In addition, rides are free Dec. 24 and Dec. 31 on all Metro buses and Metro Rail. 2004 Royal Court Princesses: Stephanie Barnes, Laura Stassel, Christina Mills, Natalie Matsumoto, Erinne La Brie, and Katherine Koch.



PHOTO BY LUIS INZUNZA

## **LASD Prepares For New Year's Festivities on the Metro Gold Line**

By ADRIENNE FIGUEROA

(Dec. 22, 2003) As passengers board the Metro Gold Line en route to the 115th Rose Parade this New Year's Day, members of the Sheriff's Transit Services Bureau will be keeping a watchful eye out for their safety.

The presence of Sheriff's deputies, fare inspectors, MTA Security officers and employee volunteers will be significantly increased along all Metro Rail Lines – particularly at Union Station and Metro Gold Line stations.

The officers will work crowd control and block the transportation of unsafe items and belongings that may obstruct walkways on train cars.

"We hope we can make taking the trains and buses to the event part of their experience," says Sheriff's Lt. Mike Parker. "We want to make it safe and enjoyable."

### **Dangerous items**

At checkpoints along Metro hub stations and transfer points, Sheriff's deputies will stop passengers with dangerous and oversized items that the trains cannot accommodate. This includes lighter fluid, hibachis, ladders and large umbrellas.

"For people traveling to the Rose Parade on the train, it's best to travel light," says Parker.

Although Parker was unable to give an expected attendance figure, he

believes the event at peak times could be comparable in size to the opening of the Metro Gold Line last July.

Parade-goers may try to avoid heavy ridership travel times by planning a longer day in Pasadena.

"Go early and leave late," says Parker. "Go look at the floats after the parade and enjoy the day."

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