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PHOTO: SHANTAY IOSIA



Division 2 service attendants Glenn Lujan, left, and Samuel Williams, right, here with Maintenance Manager Donnell Harris, earned certificates of appreciation for their quick response in catching a purse snatcher.

### Division 2's Williams and Lujan Chase Down a Purse Snatcher

- Celestine Johnson got her purse and keys back

By SHANTAY IOSIA

(Aug. 18, 2004) "Keeping an eye out" was all it took for Crossroads Depot Division 2 service attendants Samuel Williams and Glenn Lujan to prevent a bad situation from getting worse.

It all started about 4 a.m., Sunday, July 25, when Metro Bus Operator Celestine Johnson parked her car and headed into the Division 2 transportation building. Before she could make it in, a man rushed past her and snatched her purse and keys.

Williams, who was some distance away, saw the incident and moved toward Johnson. As he got closer, he noticed her entering the yard, distraught over her loss.

Johnson briefly explained what happened and Williams made sure she was safe before starting after the purse snatcher. He motioned for Lujan and they both went after the stolen purse.

#### 'Didn't have time to think'

"It happened so quick. We really didn't have time to think," Lujan says. "I just knew that if we called the cops they would have never made it on time."

Williams and Lujan caught up to the culprit farther down the street and yelled for the man to return the purse. After a few loud exchanges, the man dropped the purse and ran.

The two men returned the purse to a grateful Johnson. "After that, I went right back to work," Lujan says.

Division 2 Maintenance Manager Donnell Harris says it was the first time an employee had been attacked.

**'Always that danger'**

"When you're out here after 10 p.m. and before 4 a.m. it's eerie, but when you've worked here so long you get used to it," Harris says. "But, it doesn't take away from the fact that there's always that danger around the corner."

CEO Roger Snoble says Metro plans to use grant money to install video surveillance systems at the operating divisions.

In the meantime, Harris says that although Metro is a big agency, it feels more like family and he knows that employees will help each other out in times of need.

"These two gentlemen are the epitome of some of the people we have around here," he says of Samuel Williams and Glenn Lujan.

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