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## Former Operator Pleads Guilty to Workers' Comp Fraud

- Alleged assault never happened, video tape showed
- Court orders probation, community service, \$4,239 fine

By ROY ROMERO

( Oct. 8, 2004 ) Former Gateway Division 10 Operator Anna M. Lewis pled guilty, Oct. 5, to four of seven criminal counts of filing a false or fictitious claim for Workers' Compensation.

Lewis had alleged she was injured during an unprovoked attack by a male passenger on board the bus she was driving.

Sheriff's deputies searched for a suspect and arrested a person matching the description given by Lewis. Lewis identified the man in custody as her assailant. The man eventually was released for lack of evidence.

Metro's Workers' Compensation Special Investigations Unit (SIU) assisted with analysis of the surveillance video from the bus to determine when and where the alleged assault took place.

After hours of a careful frame-by-frame review of the images, SIU investigators determined that the video had not captured an assault because one had never taken place.

The case was presented to the Los Angeles District Attorney's Fraud Division for consideration of Insurance Fraud.

Lewis was in court, Oct. 5, to complete payment of \$1,000 in initial restitution to Metro. She also pled guilty to four of the seven counts against her. They included felony insurance fraud, presenting a false or fraudulent claim for payment, filing a false criminal report, and felony grand theft.

Lewis now must serve five years' formal probation, 200 hours' community service, and pay a total of \$4,239 in restitution to Metro.

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