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PHOTOS: BILL HEARD



Electronic metal detector "wands" were used to screen Board Room visitors. From left are Metro Security officers Enrique Ortiz and Henry Solis and Sgt. John Davis.

## New Security Measures in Effect for Board Meetings

- Additional security planned for Gateway Building

By BILL HEARD, Editor

(Oct. 28, 2004) New measures aimed at providing greater security during Board of Directors meetings went into effect, Thursday, at the Gateway Building.

Metro Security officers stationed in the Board Room lobby checked visitors' handbags and parcels, and used metal detecting "wands" similar to those employed at airports.

Additional security actions are planned for the Headquarters building in the months ahead, says Sheriff's Lt. Mike Herek, director of Metro Security.

By mid-2005, "walk-through" magnetometers and package screening machines will be placed in the building's Plaza-level lobby. They will be used for weapons screening during high-alert periods.

### Employees will be affected

Thursday's security checks did not include employees wearing Metro ID badges, but employees will be affected during periods of heightened alert, Herek said.

Visitors who enter the building from either the Plaza or the parking structure during high-alert periods will be directed to the Plaza level and will be required to go through security screening.



Sheriff's Lt. Mike Herek was named director of Metro Security earlier this year. He is responsible for security at Metro facilities and for the 99-member Metro Security staff and 100 contract security personnel.

Similar security equipment has been in use for some time at the County Hall of Administration, City Hall, federal and state court and office buildings and at welfare offices, Herek said.

"This is the beginning of what's to come," he said. "Times have changed."

Metro Security Sgt. John Davis checks a visitor's bag during a security screening in the Board Room lobby.



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