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Deputy Rich Faulk instructs the 20 new fare inspectors. The agency plans to add 40 security assistants during 2005.



20 New Fare Inspectors to Target Fare Evasion, Improve Safety By SHANTAY IOSIA

(Dec. 16, 2004) Twenty new fare inspectors have joined the Sheriff's Transit Services Bureau in an effort to further reduce fare evasion and improve rail safety.

They are part of a program which will add 60 new security assistants to the Metro Blue and Green Lines during 2005.

"Our goal is to make the rail system safe for the public," says Sheriff's Capt. Daniel Finkelstein, Metro's Chief of Police. "They will be able to prevent crime, assist riders, and help deputies respond to incidents more quickly."

The fare inspectors completed their initial two-week training at the Sheriff's Academy on Nov.1. They were trained in areas such as cultural diversity, defensive tactics and personal communication.

Mentor program

The inspectors have begun their second phase of training and are expected to complete a mentor program in late December. As more inspectors are hired, those currently in training will be added to the seasoned fare inspectors working on the Blue and Green Lines.

Deputies Rich Faulk and Albert Calibet began working with the new hires in October and expect the inspectors to make considerable contributions to Metro.

They anticipate the presence of more fare inspectors during the Rose Parade and Rose Bowl, Jan. 1, when thousands of people are expected to use the Metro Gold Line to travel to Pasadena.

"We're just happy to have the opportunity to bring more of these folks

on board," says Lt. Roland Choi, who supervises the policing of the Blue and Green Lines. "It will be nothing short of a benefit to MTA, passengers and deputies. They really help us out quite a bit."

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