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Division 9 Operator Carlos Rodriguez returns a lost wallet containing nearly \$1,200 to patron, Mrs. Cheng.

Photo by Mike Greenwood

## Bus Operator Rescues Small Fortune for Patron

By MIKE GREENWOOD

(March 9, 2005) Imagine leaving your wallet on a bus with nearly \$1,200 inside. What are the chances of getting the wallet back? What are the chances of getting the money back?

Well, if it's a San Gabriel Valley Division 9 bus, your chances are very good. Thanks to Metro Bus operators like Carlos Rodriguez, integrity is alive and well at Metro.

On Feb. 15, while driving Line 76, Rodriguez, who joined Metro in 1998, discovered a black wallet a patron had left onboard. At the end of his shift, he turned the wallet in to the Division 9 Dispatcher Carole Gordan and together they inventoried its contents.

To their amazement, it contained \$1,190. They secured the wallet and money and notified Metro's Lost and Found. A letter was sent to the address found in the patron's wallet.

### Returned the money

On Feb. 25, Operator Rodriguez got to meet the grateful patron, Mrs. Cheng of Los Angeles, and return the money to her.

The 80-year old native of Taiwan and her daughter, who drove her to the division, were amazed at her good fortune. They explained that she had been on her way to the bank to make a deposit and had left the wallet behind.

Bus operators are required to walk through the bus after every trip to search for lost items and other conditions that may affect their passengers.

On this day, Operator Carlos Rodriguez performed his duty flawlessly.