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Photo by Arlene Lim



New Maintenance Manager Hector Rojas.

Hector Rojas is New No. 1 Man at Division 1 Maintenance

By DAVID HERSHENSON

(May 3, 2005) Hector Rojas has been selected as the new maintenance manager at Central City Division 1 in downtown Los Angeles.

He will succeed Donell Harris, who has been managing both Divisions 1 and 2 Maintenance Departments since January. Harris will return to his normal assignment as maintenance manager of Crossroads Division 2.

Rojas had been the equipment maintenance manager, Fleet Management and Support

Services, since 2002. In addition to managing the bus fleet, he supervised the Vehicle Maintenance System (VMS/M3) staff.

Fleet management ensures that all operating divisions have the right type and amount of equipment to meet demands. It also includes the development and upkeep of the FTA-mandated maintenance plan, handling thousands of road calls through a group of 14 field equipment technicians, managing the maintenance information system, and working with several regulatory agencies such as DMV, AQMD, ARB to ensure the proper licensing and compliance.

Began career in 1981

Rojas began his Metro career with SRTD in 1981 as a service attendant, and went on to work as a leader and a supervisor at Divisions 1, 2 and 10 and in the Quality Assurance Department (QA).

As a QA supervisor, he simulated the CHP inspections for Metro maintenance divisions and supervised the Hazmat and Oil Analysis Laboratory. Later, Rojas worked as a supervisor at the Regional Rebuild Center, where he supervised most of the maintenance shops.

During the selection process, Rojas was the unanimous choice from a long list of internal and external candidates who submitted applications for the position.

"All of the candidates for the position were strong, but Hector really stood out," said Harris. "I am confident that Hector will do an outstanding job managing the division."

Wished him well

Rojas' former supervisor, Milo Victoria, deputy executive officer, Operations, is sorry to see him go but wished him the best.

"Hector has done an excellent job as fleet manager," said Victoria. "He is innovative, hard working, and possesses great communication skills. I'm sure he will excel as division maintenance manager."

Gateway Cities General Manager Alex Clifford is looking forward to working with Rojas.

"Mr. Rojas has an excellent grasp on the inner-workings of the MTA and understands well the need to minimize road calls, provide the customers with clean buses and to achieve 100 percent daily pullout, while at the same time carefully managing the maintenance operation to budget and keeping Safety 1st," said Clifford. "He has a sprit of creativity and innovation and seeks to provide an atmosphere of inclusion and empowerment such that his team members will be encouraged to *'think outside the box'*. Mr. Rojas is one of this agency's shining stars and I look forward to having him join Team Gateway Cities."

Focus on improvements

Rojas is excited about his new position. "I want to focus on improving Division 1's performance - the decisions we make today will affect us tomorrow."

"A strong and effective line of communication is very important to me," he added. "I want to work with everyone, in every shift under my supervision to identify our goals together, and to unanimously come up with a plan to achieve them."

"It is very important for me to involve everyone from the onset because I believe that a sincere commitment NOW is a key to a well-designed FUTURE," he said. "I am truly looking forward to working together with a highly talented group of people."

Rojas and his wife, Jennifer, married for 24 years, reside in Riverside with their children Michael, 24; Daniel, 20; and Jennifer Josephine, 17. Rojas is currently attending the University of Phoenix to obtain a Bachelor's degree in business.