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## El Monte Man Arrested at Gateway on Fraud, Grand Theft Charges

- Claimed \$8,000 for alleged injuries on a Metro Bus

By PAM MURANO

(May 13, 2005) An El Monte man who claimed he was injured during a Metro Bus ride was arrested at the Gateway Building, Wednesday, and charged with insurance fraud and grand theft.

The Superior Court set a bail of \$85,000 for Eddie Dominguez, 49, who had submitted an \$8,000 claim for injury he said he sustained on Dec. 11, 2004.

Dominguez alleged that the operator of the bus he was riding was driving erratically and suddenly braked causing him to fall from his seat to the floor. He claimed that passengers attempting to exit the bus trampled him.

Investigator Roy Romero of Metro's Special Investigation Unit was able to view Digital Video Recorder evidence from the bus and determined that Dominguez never left his bus seat during his ride on the bus that day.

Additionally, Romero determined that the injuries Dominguez claimed were from a previous injury that occurred on February 11, 2004. That injury was for multiple stab wounds, injuries that would not be consistent with Dominguez's current claim.

### Altered medical records

Further investigation revealed that Dominguez had altered the medical records, changing the month from 2-11-04 to 12-11-04.

"Good investigative work and technology teamed up to prevent a costly fraud," said Deputy CEO John Catoe. "This effort by our Special Investigation Unit also protected a Metro Bus operator from a false allegation."

Romero submitted the case to the California Department of Insurance and the State District Attorney's office where criminal charges were filed.

A warrant was issued, April 28, for the arrest of Dominguez, charging him with three counts: presenting a fraudulent claim for payment, presenting a written false insurance claim and attempted grand theft.

### Invited him to Gateway

On Monday, May 9, Romero called Dominguez, claiming to be an employee of the "Metro Claims Settlement Department" and invited him to the Gateway Building to receive a settlement check for his

claim.

When Dominguez arrived at the Metro Gateway Building at approximately 10:30 on Wednesday, May 11, he was taken into custody on the outstanding warrant.

Department of Insurance Investigator, Corey Dudley, and three other members of the states' Auto Fraud Team executed the arrest and transported Dominguez to Los Angeles County Jail for booking. Members of Metro's LASD Transit Services Bureau also assisted with the arrest.

As he was led from the building in handcuffs, Dominguez was still asking for his settlement check, arresting officers said.

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