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Reacting to Thursday's terror attacks in London, Councilman Bernard Parks – a former Los Angeles Chief of Police – said, "It's horrible when you see such disregard for life. Terrorism is the new norm and we have to make sure we never send a message that we are changing our lifestyle. We must be vigilant as to how and what we do and see so that we're aware and prepared."

Councilman Parks Visits Arthur Winston Division on First Day as Board Member

By PERRY WILLIAMS

(July 8, 2005) Los Angeles City Councilman Bernard Parks, newly named to the Board of Directors, paid a visit to Arthur Winston Division 5 on his first full day as a Board member.

Parks, who was appointed to the Board by Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa on Wednesday, was greeted at the division by Deputy CEO John Catoe and South Bay General Manager Dana Coffey.



Councilman Bernard Parks, center, and staff, tour Arthur Winston Division in the company of South Bay GM Dana Coffey, center left, and Executive Officer Carolyn Flowers and Deputy CEO John Catoe, at left.

Coffey briefed Parks on safety measures being taken in the South Bay Service Sector. She said every effort is being made to address the concerns of the local community. "We are a 'team-working' division," she said.

Parks said concerns voiced to him by the local community included improving bus service and attention to customer relations.

Photos: Arlene Lim



Councilman Parks greets Bus Operator Major Frost, above, and Operator Lakeisha Coleman, below.



‘Working hand-in-hand’

“It’s very rare that we have the opportunity to have one of our Board members come and visit our operating facilities,” said Catoe. “Councilman Parks is knowledgeable and has an interest in public transportation. We look forward to working hand-in-hand with him.”

During the meeting, Catoe presented Parks a framed Leimert Park poster, one of a series of Metro Destinations posters.

Joined by division namesake Arthur Winston, Parks concluded his visit to the division with a short ride on the new Metro Liner. The sixty-foot articulated bus will be used on the Metro Orange Line later this year and also is expected to operate on Metro Rapid lines out of Division 5.

Some employees were impressed with Parks’ visit to the division on his first day as a Board member.

“He’s a cool guy and I’m glad he came to find out first-hand about things going on in the division,” said Bus Operator Vincent Cryer.