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VIP Visit Caps DAC Workers 'Night Out' Experience

• Mayor, police chief and councilman drop in on event

By RICH MORALLO

(Aug. 9, 2005) Division Ambassador Council member Bobby Miles looked up from the Metro information table during the "Night Out" fair at Luther Burbank Middle School in Los Angeles and knew a VIP was in the area.

"I saw a police escort come down the road, so I walked across the playground to check it out," said the six-year Arthur Winston Division 5 operator, who as a DAC member volunteers to represent Metro at public functions.

Then Miles saw the VIP walking right at him. "Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, surrounded by students and teachers, approached me," said Miles.

"You guys are hard workers," the mayor told Miles, who asked the mayor and Board of

Directors chairman to pose for a picture with him. Other officials at the Night Out" included Police Chief William Bratton and Councilman Ed Reyes.



DAC member Bobby Miles of Arthur Winston Division 5 and Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa at the "Night Out" event. below, Community Relations Intern Jessie Sanchez staffs a Metro information table during the "Night Out."



'Safety speaks for itself'

"We were there to talk to the students about transit safety," said Miles. "Safety speaks for itself and we want to tell the youngsters how to use Metro to get home safely," he added.

Regional Community Relations Manager Helen Ortiz and intern Jessie Sanchez worked with Miles at the "Night Out", a public activity designed to strengthen neighborhood spirit and police-community partnerships.

"It is crucial that we go out and inform students and the community about the dangers that may arise when they are near, or on our trains and platforms," said Sanchez.

'No one told me'

Sanchez added that people often admit to doing something dangerous around the tracks or trains because they "didn't know" or "no one ever told me" it was wrong.

"The Metro table was the most popular with the young and senior folks," said Ortiz. "The bus and rail timetables went quick and the MTA bags were visible from near and far."

The fourth member of the Metro outreach team was Roy Turner, a South Bay Division 18 mechanic working his second community event that day.

Earlier Turner and Miles talked to senior citizens about riding Metro Bus and Metro Rail at Independence Square just south of downtown Los Angeles.

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