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Deputies Arrest 2 Men Suspected in Metro Bus Burglaries

By LEO BAUER

(March 3, 2006) Transit Services Bureau deputies recently arrested two suspects who were involved in burglarizing Metro buses near the Metro Green Line.

The suspects were arrested on separate days and at separate locations, but were discovered to know each other. Both suspects had bus keys which allowed them entry into the buses while the operators were on their scheduled breaks, the deputies reported.

Deputy Josh Bardon arrested a suspect, Jan. 21, at the Imperial/Rosa Parks station following a bus burglary at that location.

Bardon observed the suspect's suspicious behavior and clothing and detained him for questioning. The suspect had stolen Metro day passes and the bus operator's cell phone in his possession, Bardon said.

If convicted, the suspect could be sentenced to six years in state prison.

Deputy Henry Saenz arrested a suspect at the Long Beach Green Line station bus layover, Jan. 25, after recognizing him from a description provided following a bus burglary three days earlier.

The suspect was on parole and allegedly admitted committing three bus burglaries at the Long Beach Bus layover next to the Metro Green Line. If convicted, the suspect could be sentenced to nine years in state prison.

"Both arrests were the result of outstanding police work by the deputies involved and could not have happened without their excellent observation skills and positive work ethic," said Sheriff's Cmdr. Dan Finkelstein, Metro Police Chief.