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Tools of the trade> Evidence turned up during a search of one graffiti vandal's home included spray paint, markers and "slap tags."



Photos courtesy of Sheriff's Transit Services Bureau

Tagger's Jailhouse Interview Fingers Suspect in \$44,000 Graffiti Vandalism Case

(Aug. 18, 2006) Aware that he was a suspect in 21 felony cases of vandalizing Metro buses, a tagger named Christian Delgado was on the run from Sheriff's Transit Services Bureau detectives.

But Delgado, 19, must have slipped up, because he was arrested on vandalism charges by Inglewood police and jailed.

So it was in the Inglewood jail in early August that Sheriff's Deputy Terrence Bell and Deputy Devin Vanderlaan of the Special Problems Unit questioned Delgado about his activities and those of other suspected graffiti taggers in the South Bay and Gateway Cities Service Sectors.

In addition to graffiti supplies, Sheriff's deputies also found a \$3 Day Pass and a Metro Bus schedule for Line 111, which operates out of the LAX Bus Center along Florence



Avenue.

And it was through questioning that the deputies, who specialize in anti-graffiti investigations developed information that led to the identity of another suspected vandal, William Figueroa, 19.

Figueroa is suspected of committing 17 felony and two misdemeanor cases of vandalism – about \$44,000 worth of damage – to Metro buses operating out of divisions 1, 2, 5 and 18.

LAPD officers had arrested Figueroa on a felony vandalism charge, July 14, and he also was in jail waiting a preliminary trial set for Aug. 21.

When Bell and Vanderlaan searched Figueroa's home, Aug. 16, they turned up what they said was "a substantial amount of evidence supporting our cases."

Confronted with the evidence as he sat in jail, the deputies reported that Figueroa "confessed to all of the damage that was documented on the buses."

The evidence and interviews with the two suspects, the Transit Services Bureau hopes, will lead detectives to other taggers who have vandalized Metro buses and property in the South Bay.