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Investigation of Alleged Gambling by Metro Employees Brings Stern Warning from Catoe:

'Gambling strictly prohibited by employees on Metro property'

- [Metro Operator's Code of Conduct](#), Section 4.11, Gaming Restrictions
- [Metro Employee Code of Conduct](#), Section 5-15-110

(Aug. 30, 2006) In the wake of a criminal investigation into alleged illegal gambling by Metro employees, Deputy CEO John Catoe has issued a strongly worded statement warning employees that "Gambling is strictly prohibited by Metro employees while on duty or on Metro property."

"We will not accept any violation of this policy by any employee, and we will take appropriate action against those who do so," the statement continued, "... (G)ambling is taboo on the job or at any Metro facility."

Catoe's statement said the agency, "...is cooperating fully with Metro's Inspector General and the California Department of Justice in the ongoing investigation of alleged gambling activity by some of our employees."

Both the Metro Operator's Code of Conduct and the Metro Employee Code of Conduct prohibit gambling at Metro facilities by on-duty employees.

Investigation began in late 2005

The investigation by the Office of the Inspector General and the California DOJ was launched in late 2005. Investigators have turned up betting slips and other evidence of alleged widespread operating division employee involvement.

According to California DOJ Special Agent Supervisor David Vialpando, who was interviewed by Fox News, the alleged illegal gambling apparently was based on the California Lottery numbers.

The alleged gambling involved several hundred thousand dollars over a period of several years. In June 2005, Vialpando said, at least 1,500 bets were illegally placed.

Search warrants have been issued naming several employees, but no arrests had been made and no charges had been filed as of Wednesday morning.

Metro Operator’s Code of Conduct, Section 4.11, Gaming Restrictions	Metro Employee Code of Conduct, Section 5-15-110
<p>The Metro Operator’s Code of Conduct, Section 4.11, Gaming Restrictions, states: All forms of gambling are prohibited while on duty or on MTA property. Dominoes, ping-pong, pool, checkers, chess, MTA authorized games and card games are permitted with the following restrictions:</p> <p>No gambling of any kind is permitted. No money, tokens, chips or other monetary substitute may be used.</p> <p>No card games generally associated with gambling may be played. These games include, but are not limited to poker, black jack, red dog, acey ducey, and tonk.</p> <p>Card playing in areas other than the train room is prohibited.</p> <p>The playing of cards, dominoes, checkers and chess will be permitted during designated hours, provided there is no interference with Division operations.</p> <p>Card playing privileges may be suspended if any of these restrictions are abused.</p>	<p>The Employee Code of Conduct, Section 5-15-110, states that employees “shall not use any MTA assets for personal gain or for any purpose other than MTA business.” The section defines “assets” as, among other things, “time, facilities, equipment, stationery, records, mailing lists, supplies...” and declares that these and other MTA assets may not be used “for any use otherwise prohibited by law.”</p> <p>Any employee who is aware of these types of activities, should contact Mimi Strauss, Deputy Inspector General for Investigations in the Office of the Inspector General at 213-244-7335.</p>