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Sheriff's Investigation Nabs Alleged Tagger of Metro Rail Cars

By NED RACINE

(Jan. 16, 2006) A December search of a Hollywood home netted Transit Services Bureau (TSB) Special Unit detectives a bounty of Metro signage and assorted tagging tools.

Serving a search warrant at a North Wilcox Avenue address on Dec. 20, detectives discovered Metro signage and the tagging tools.

Sheriff's deputies booked the suspect, a 17-year-old male, at the West Hollywood Sheriff's Station. During the post-booking interview, the suspect admitted to possessing the Metro signs and damaging Metro rail cars, according to a TSB report.

The suspect was released to his mother.

Based on information obtained during the interview, Sheriff's Detective Frank Richter plans to conduct other searches for suspects that contributed to the damage of Metro property.

The investigation began with the Oct. 27 arrest of the 17-year-old living at the Wilcox address. Arrested at the Universal City station, the juvenile was cited for fare evasion and possession of vandalism tools.

According to Sheriff's Sgt. Augie Pando, the juvenile possessed more than 200 pre-printed "slap tags" bearing the tag name "DINO," including a backwards "N." After his arrest, the juvenile admitted his tagging name was DINO, Pando said.

When arrested, the juvenile – who was splattered with paint – said he was on summary probation for a previous arrest for over \$50,000 in vandalism, according to the report.

On Nov. 2, a TSB Special Unit team discovered two trains vandalized with the tag moniker DINO. On Nov. 14, two more trains were found with similar graffiti. The damage to the four trains totaled approximately \$10,000.

