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**UPDATE:** (Jan. 18, 2007) Metro Board Chair Gloria Molina released a statement, Thursday, expressing concern about how the mercury spill incident was handled by Metro and other agencies. She called for a "thorough, joint, top-to-bottom investigation on how this incident was handled and what protocols were or were not followed...(and)...on how their existing protocols can be strengthened." The report is due in 30 days. Molina's statement also noted that the mercury spill "did not pose a danger to the public."



Five men, who may have witnessed a mercury spill at the Pershing Square station, are being sought for questioning. A Sheriff's news release focuses on the man pictured above, at left. Download: <u>LASD Bulletin</u>.

## LA Terrorism Task Force Investigating Possible Mercury Spill

 Amount of mercury spilled at Pershing Square station not a danger to people

(Jan. 18, 2007) LA's Joint Terrorism Task Force is investigating an apparent spill of poisonous mercury on the platform at the Pershing Square station late on Dec. 22, 2006.

A bulletin issued by the LA County Sheriff's Department seeks information on five men whose images were caught by surveillance cameras in the station. The men could have witnessed the incident and are sought for questioning.

A later news release focused on one young man pictured in the bulletin who was observed on the platform at 10:45 p.m., Dec. 22.

According to the news release, the surveillance video shows the man appearing to "spill a vial of liquid onto the platform." He then went to a nearby call box. In a call recorded by the Rail Operations Center, a man said there had been a mercury spill at the station.

The Joint Terrorism Task Force has no evidence to suggest that the incident is terrorist-related or even criminal in nature, said Sheriff's Detective Dan Regaldo, who along with Detective Keith Schumaker is involved in the investigation.

Regaldo said the Sheriff's HAZMAT team determined that the amount of liquid spilled on the platform was not enough to injury anyone.

Meanwhile, Transit Services Bureau deputies began posting flyers with photos of the possible witnesses at all Metro Red Line stations on Wednesday, Regaldo said.

Anyone with information about the incident should contact Regaldo or Schumaker at 922-3543 or 323-563-5000.

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