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Safety/Security and Labor Relations Executives Joining Metro

- Both men will report to the interim chief operating officer

By BILL HEARD, Editor

(March 22, 2007) Metro has moved to fill two key staff positions – deputy executive officer for Safety and Security, and deputy executive officer for Labor Relations – announcing the new employees at today's Board meeting.

CEO Roger Snoble named Jack L. Eckles, who has served as security services manager for the LA County Office of Education since 1999, to head Metro's Safety and Security Department. He will join Metro on March 28 and will report to Interim Chief Operating Officer Carolyn Flowers.

The Board confirmed Snoble's nomination of Edward D. Del Genio to serve as deputy executive officer for Labor Relations. Del Genio, an attorney, previously worked in labor relations at United Airlines and, in 2003, was appointed by the U.S. Bankruptcy Court to represent United Airlines employees in the airline's bankruptcy case.

Del Genio, a resident of Henderson, Nev., is scheduled to join Metro March 26 and also will report to Flowers.

While employed at county Office of Education, Eckles was responsible for managing a contract security staff of 60 officers who provided security for some 6,000 employees in more than 20 locations.

Eckles, a resident of Anaheim, also was a field supervisor and field operations manager for Universal Protection Service in Orange, and a private investigator and instructor for Encinas Investigations and California Security Academy in Garden Grove.

Served in Baghdad

A member of the U.S. Army Reserve, he was called to active duty in April 2005, serving for about a year in Baghdad, Iraq, as commander of a civil affairs unit involved in reconstruction and humanitarian relief efforts.

Eckles earned a bachelor's degree in justice administration at Cal State LA, and law degrees at the Pacific West College of Law in Orange. He began his career in law enforcement as an LA County deputy sheriff.

During his 33 years with United Airlines, Del Genio served as director of labor relations for flight operations and director of labor relations for arbitration, among other positions.

While at United Airlines, he represented management in more than 800 arbitration cases and worked with nine different unions. He also learned interest-based bargaining – the style of negotiations adopted by Metro for the most recent round of union bargaining talks.

Del Genio earned a bachelor’s degree in accounting at St. Thomas College in St. Paul, Minn., and a law degree at Chicago Kent College of Law. He began his career as an assistant state’s attorney and prosecutor in Cook County, Ill.