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Operations DEO Milo Victoria Retiring in June after 31 Years

- He'll be chief operating officer at Washington's metro system

By BILL HEARD, Editor

(May 17, 2007) After 31 years on the job – which he began as a mechanic – Milo Victoria will retire, June 22, as deputy executive officer of Operations and head of Operations Support Services and the Regional Rebuild Center.

Retiring from Metro he may be, but he'll take up a new position, June 12, with the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA), where he will be chief operating officer responsible for operation and maintenance of the 1,500-bus fleet and the activities of some 3,500 employees – almost 10 times the number he currently supervises.

Victoria, 52, will report to WMATA Deputy Gerald Francis, who resigned from Metro in March. His last day at Metro will be June 6.

"Milo has been a part of Metro through many transitions and his depth of experience is going to be missed," said Carolyn Flowers, acting chief operating officer. "Our hope is that he'll get more valuable experience and one day return to the Metro team."

No successor named

No successor has been named, but Flowers and Victoria's supervisor, San Gabriel Valley General Manager Jack Gabig, will work with Human Resources to fill the position.

"Milo has a long record of achievement since he joined the agency in 1976 and he's played a significant role in making Metro what it is today," said Gabig, noting the importance of the RRC and Operations Support Services in helping maintain the efficient operation of the bus fleet.

"We wish him much success in his new challenge at WMATA," Gabig added. "He'll be truly missed here at Metro."

Victoria said his focus initially will be improving WMATA's bus safety record. He also will be involved with bringing new technology into the bus fleet. "I also want to make sure the same importance is given to the bus side because, after all, the buses feed the trains and go where trains can't."



Milo Victoria will retire from Metro, next month, and has been named to head bus operations for the Washington, D.C. metro system.

Looking back on his 31 years at the SCRTD and Metro, Victoria is amazed at the number of friends he's made among co-workers and others in the transit industry, adding, "I'm going to miss a lot of people here. The managers who report to me are top-notch. They make my job really easy and I appreciate everything they've done."

Victoria joined the SCRTD in June 1976 as a mechanic "B" after four years with Sears, Roebuck as a mechanic and maintenance manager of a 50-truck fleet.

Rose through the ranks

At the SCRTD, he rose through the maintenance ranks to senior equipment maintenance supervisor and division maintenance manager. During the early 1980s, he helped move Division 8 from Van Nuys to Chatsworth and opened Gateway Division 10.

From 1995 to '98, Victoria was service operations manager at South Bay Division 18 where his responsibilities included both transportation and maintenance. He was named deputy executive officer of Operations in April 2004.

Victoria is a graduate of Los Angeles Trade Technical College and earned a BS in business management from the University of Phoenix, graduating Summa Cum Laude. He also was one of the first graduates of Metro's TLAMP management program and was among a select group of U.S. transit executives chosen for a study group that toured South American transit systems in 2004.

Milo and Melissa Victoria, a lead assignment coordinating clerk in Metro's Manpower Systems and Support Department, have five children. Melissa, who has 18 years' seniority at Metro, plans to remain with the agency until her 23-year retirement date, he says.