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## TSB Deputies Escort Swedish Parliament Representatives

- Group is touring LA's mental health facilities

By JIMMY STROUP

(July 5, 2007) Eight representatives of the Swedish Parliament came to Metro headquarters, Monday, as part of a Transit Services Bureau-hosted tour of the mental health facilities and programs in the Los Angeles area.

The delegation came to the U.S. to evaluate the differences between the treatment of mental health issues in Sweden and the comparable institutions, public and private, set up for the same function in the U.S..

"We're showing the Mental Health Unit to them," said Sheriff's Deputy Britta Kjellstrand, who helped guide the visit. "They want to know what we have in place so they can compare it to what they have."

The unit she spoke of is a Sheriff's Department program that deals with mental health-related problems for the county, including incidents that occur on Metro lines, stations and vehicles. TSB has two two-member units – each made up of one deputy and one nurse – that respond to problem situations where issues of mental health might be in play.

Deputy Craig McClelland heads up the Mental Health Unit and said the Swedish visitors were interested in the processes Los Angeles authorities employ assisting in cases of mental health, and also in the types of treatment and custody LASD uses.

"We have a really good overview of the entire system, so they asked us



Transit Services Bureau deputies hosted eight representatives of the Swedish Parliament on a tour of mental health facilities and programs in the Los Angeles area. From left are Sgt. Ron Marquez, Sgt. Bruce Thomas, Deputy Craig McClelland, Deputy Dirk Blansfield, Sgt. Augie Pando and Lt. John Baylis. Photo by Ned Racine

to help coordinate with the delegation because our experience is so broad,” McClelland said.

Earlier in the day, TSB deputies showed the Swedes the mental health ward at the Twin Towers jail. The tour was set to take the delegates down Skid Row to see what McClelland called the “street scene” of mental health in Los Angeles, then to Harbor-UCLA Medical Center in Torrance, Presbyterian Intercommunity Hospital in Whittier and the College Hospitals in Cerritos.