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Tagger is accused of using spray paint to deface the walls adjoining the Metro Orange Line Sepulveda Station, as well as the station canopy.



LASD photos

Suspected Tagger Arrested On Felony Charge of Vandalizing Metro Property

- Charges to include armed robbery

By NED RACINE

(August 2, 2007) A tagger who vandalized the Metro Orange Line and Metro Bus Line 233 now sits in the North County Correction Facility after several deputies from the Transit Services Bureau's (TSB) Special Problems Unit arrested the 19-year-old on July 25.

According to Sheriff's Deputy Marlon Johnson, Kevin Herrera (AKA "IKE") is being held on \$100,000 bond and charged with felony vandalism. Metro estimated Herrera's damage to the Sepulveda Orange Line station and Line 233 buses totaled \$40,000.

Herrera is accused of etching bus window frames with rocks and razor blades and using spray paint to place his moniker on walls adjoining the Sepulveda Station, as well as the station canopy.

After serving a search warrant at a Columbus Avenue residence in Van Nuys, where Herrera lives with his parents, Deputy Johnson and his partner, Deputy Brad Johnson, discovered Herrera was not at home. The deputies inspected Herrera's orderly bedroom and discovered, according to

Deputy Marlon Johnson, examples of graffiti showing the "IKE" moniker, marking pens and other evidence.



Sheriff's deputies collected ample evidence from the suspect's bedroom.

When the deputies arrived at the residence, Herrera's mother told them her son's friends would often call him and use the IKE moniker. She told deputies she had seen her son's moniker in her neighborhood and had insisted he stop tagging, according to Marlon Johnson.

TSB deputies arrested Herrera without incident, according to Deputy Marlon Johnson, at a park-and-ride lot near the 170 Freeway. Herrera was part of a Caltrans work crew cleaning the area. This was part of his community service for an earlier arrest for vandalism. Herrera was on parole when arrested by TSB deputies.

"There were some interesting looks on their faces when we drove up," Marlon Johnson said. "They didn't know who we were there for."

Deputy Marlon Johnson reported that while he interviewed Herrera, the suspect admitted responsibility for multiple vandalism cases. Marlon Johnson said Herrera told him he knew the deputy was coming after him. "He said he would walk down the street and see me and hide."