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Former Operator Pleads Guilty in Stolen Day Pass Scheme

By PAM MURANO

(Nov. 8, 2007) A veteran bus operator pled guilty, Sept. 4, to grand theft and conspiracy to commit grand theft in a scheme involving the sale of stolen Metro day passes.

Appearing in Los Angeles Superior Court, former Gateway Division 10 Operator Yolanda Blackshire, 52, admitted to the felony charges and to passing the stolen day passes to a co-conspirator who sold them on the street.

Blackshire was sentenced to three years' formal probation and five weeks of community service with the Caltrans Community Service Project. A hearing will be scheduled to determine what amount of restitution she will be ordered to pay Metro.

Blackshire's co-conspirator in the scheme was sentenced to two years in state prison for receiving stolen property and conspiracy to commit grand theft.

In August, Blackshire confessed to a Metro Special Investigative Unit investigator and Sheriff's deputies during investigative interviews. She had passed her 25th anniversary with Metro that same month.

Blackshire resigned from Metro in lieu of termination.