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Metro Security Chief Jack Eckles, center, commended Transit Security Officer Timothy Huang, at left, and Stephen Burnley, at right, for assisting a man who collapsed on the El Monte Busway. Their supervisor, Sgt. J.C. French is at far left and Lt. Jacob Lopez is at right.



Photo by Bill Heard

Security Officers Commended for Saving Man on Busway

 While one officer held traffic, the other moved unconscious man to safety

(Nov. 30, 2007) Two Metro Security officers were commended, Thursday, for almost certainly saving the life of an intoxicated man who wandered onto the El Monte Busway last Friday night.

Transit Security Officers Stephen Burnley and Timothy Huang responded when Flyaway employees saw the young man stumble onto the busway from Patsaouras Plaza about 6:30 p.m., Nov. 23.

While Huang, riding a Segway, blocked oncoming buses and traffic, Burnley drove cautiously along the busway trying to find the man who was dressed in dark clothing.

About 200 yards past the entrance, he spotted the man collapsed on the roadway where he easily could have been hit. He dragged the unconscious man to safety and called for assistance. Sheriff's deputies took the man into custody.

"He was lucky Steve pulled him over," said Huang. "Cars were going 60 to 70 miles an hour and there's no way they could have seen him."

The citation presented to Burnley and Huang praised the officers' "unwavering skill and dedication to duty...a major contributing factor resulting in the rescue of a helpless man on the El Monte Busway."

At the presentation ceremony, Security Lt. Jacob Lopez said, "Sometimes we ask a lot of you. In a situation like this, courage was the ultimate."

Security Chief Jack Eckles told officers assembled for the presentation that, "Oftentimes, it's not until after the fact that you realize what danger you may have been in or what danger the person you helped may have been in; you're just doing your job. This is our way of saying we know the difference."

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