

[Home](#)[CEO Hotline](#)[Viewpoint](#)[Classified Ads](#)[Archives](#)[Metro.net](#) (web)

## Resources

[Safety](#)[Pressroom](#) (web)[Ask the CEO](#)[CEO Forum](#)[Employee Recognition](#)[Employee Activities](#)[Metro Projects](#)[Facts at a Glance](#)  
(web)[Archives](#)[Events Calendar](#)[Research Center/  
Library](#)[Metro Classifieds](#)[Bazaar](#)

## Metro Info

[30/10 Initiative](#)[Policies](#)[Training](#)[Help Desk](#)[Intranet Policy](#)

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## Metro Employees, Sheriff's Turn Out for National Night Out



Kathy Johnson, volunteer deputy sheriff; Sheriff's Deputy Gary De Bondt; Paula Faust, administration and financial services manager, San Gabriel Valley Sector; Jon Hillmer, transportation manager for Division 9, and Sheriff's Deputy Sherif Morsi conducted an outreach effort at the El Monte Bus Terminal. Darby the K-9, sits at Johnson's feet. *Photo by Gary De Bondt.*

## 25<sup>th</sup> annual event asks public participation in crime prevention

(Aug. 7, 2008) Metro employees and volunteers joined Sheriff's staff and other law enforcement personnel at various Metro locations on Aug. 5, to encourage the public to participate in crime prevention.

According to Sheriff's Deputy Gary De Bondt, who organized the National Night Out event at multiple Metro locations, "We reminded Metro patrons that they are the 'transit community watch.'

"For their own safety and the safety of other patrons," we ask Metro staff and riders to report any

suspicious and unruly activity to the Transit Services Bureau dispatch center at 1.888.950.SAFE (7233)," De Bondt added.

National Night Out is designed to:

- Heighten crime and drug prevention awareness;
- Generate support for, and participation in, local anticrime programs;
- Strengthen neighborhood spirit and police-community partnerships; and
- Send a message to criminals, letting them know that neighborhoods are organized and fighting back.

"They are our extra eyes and ears," De Bondt said of Metro patrons.

--Kim Upton contributed to this report



From left, Eugenio Villacorta, transit operations supervisor for Division 8, and Sheriff's Deputy Brad Johnson join two unidentified fare inspectors to promote National Night Out at the Metro Orange Line's Warner Center station. *Photo by Marilyn Archie.*



Sheriff's Deputy David Vargas; Behzad Yassan, schedules supervisor, Westside Service Sector, and Ana Alicia Mejia, administrative aide, staff the National Night Out table at Metro's Wilshire Customer Service Center.

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