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Metro Transit Security Lt. James Cook, center, congratulates Transit Security Officers Ron Allen, left, and Dion Middleton for a job well done. *Photos by Gayle Anderson*

## Metro Transit Security Officers Use Training, Experience To Help Keep Riders Safe

By LAURA KLOTH  
*Staff Writer*

(July 14, 2009) Relying heavily on their experience and training, Metro's Transit Security officers were able to react quickly and effectively to several potentially dangerous incidents last month.

On June 12, a team of Senior Transit Officers detained three robbery suspects following an incident at the Green Line Hawthorne Station.

Senior Transit officers Loretta Ferem and José Ortiz were on patrol when they were stopped by two women who told them they had been assaulted and robbed of their cell phone while standing on the station platform.

The transit officers moved quickly to search the area with Ferem covering the overpass bridge while Ortiz moved quickly toward the street.

The three suspects were caught walking around the platform and promptly detained.



Metro  
Transit  
Security Sr.  
Officers  
Loretta  
Ferem and  
José Ortiz  
on patrol.

Senior Officer Rene Lopez was on the I-710 Freeway approaching the Firestone Station when he heard the officers' call for assistance. Quickly reversing course, Lopez arrived at the Hawthorne Station to provide the needed back-up.

"Based on our training, we were able to react and apprehend all three suspects before they fled the scene," Ortiz said.

The three suspects, all under 17 years of age, were taken to Padrinos Juvenile Hall by Los Angeles County Sheriffs Deputies.

In another incident, Lopez was sent to a Metro Bus at Venice and Broadway in response to a "10-3-90" – drunk on a bus - call. Meeting Security Officer Dion Middleton, already on the scene, the officers approached the man, who was sleeping on the floor of the bus, with a bit of apprehension.



Metro Transit Security  
Sr. Officer René Lopez  
rolls with calls.

"We didn't know if he was drunk, asleep, or needed medical assistance," said Lopez. "Turns out, the guy was inebriated so we asked him to get off the bus. Just then, the operator reported that the man had walked on the bus and slapped the operator on the shoulder."

When the operator told Lopez he wanted to press charges, it changed the entire circumstance of the call, he said. "We reported it to the Sheriffs and detained the suspect until their arrival."

In the meantime, Middleton and Transit Officer Ronald Allen were at the right place and time at the Rosa Parks Station to help a man claiming a group of men had attempted to rob him.

The victim summoned the two officers for help, and officers immediately issued a station-wide broadcast alert with a description of the suspects.

Middleton rounded up most of the suspects with Allen promptly apprehending another who attempted to board a train.

"We contained the situation and made sure nobody got hurt," Allen said. "A lot of the patrons or employees look for us to figure out the situation. So we try to do the best we can."