



[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](#)

Need e-Help?

Call the Help Desk  
at 2-4357

[Contact myMetro.net](#)

[ Metro News Briefs ]

Sheriff's early morning raids track vandals caught on tape during Laker's victory melee

Click 'next' and 'back' buttons above to view all 19 photos released to the media. ^

(August 13, 2009) Sheriff's deputies today arrested four people during early morning raids conducted to nab suspects accused of damaging a Metro Bus, Metro Blue Line train and a supervisor's vehicle in the melee that broke out in downtown Los Angeles on June 14, the night the Los Angeles Lakers won the NBA championship.

Metro Transit Service Bureau Sheriff's Lt. Erik Ruble said deputies were hunting for a specific man identified through videotapes as having taken part in the violence. The Sheriff's teams didn't find him during a search of nine locations, but the raids turned up four other reputed gangsters. One suspect was taken for a parole violation and the others on warrants for crimes unrelated to the Lakers violence.

Sheriff's Transit Service Bureau  
deputies, relying on Metro

surveillance video and news media tape, were able to determine those believed responsible for the vandalism to Metro and City of Los Angeles property, which is estimated to be between \$50,000 and \$80,000.

Lt. Ruble said deputies are targeting a specific South L.A. gang, whose members are suspected of damaging several buses, rail cars and other transit property during the downtown riots.

The early morning raids were conducted at nine locations in Southern California, including Reseda, Van Nuys, Hawthorne, Los Angeles and a halfway house in Porter Ranch, said Lt. Ruble.

The videos collected from news media and other sources were handed over to LASD technical services, who extracted and printed the frames that clearly revealed individuals in the act of vandalism.

The Transit Services Bureau is releasing the photos extracted from news videos to ask the public for help in identifying the vandals pictured damaging Metro property, said Lt. Ruble.

News of the stepped-up pursuit of the vandals spread throughout Metro on Thursday. "It's great to know that we have the dedicated staff willing to put the time and effort into finding these vandals," said Division 10 Transportation Manager Alva Carrasco. "Their antics overshadowed a time of great pride and joy from Angelinos." Division 10 is the home base for Metro Bus 6549, which was ransacked by rioting Laker fans when the victory celebration spiraled out of control.

Metro sustained an estimated \$58,000 in damages to eight buses with broken windows and graffiti, the burnt-out Vehicle Operations unit, and the Metro Blue Line car at the Pico Station pelted by objects large enough to break the train windows.

KNX news radio, City News Service, the Los Angeles Times, and Channels 2/9, 7 and 34 are among the media outlets covering the story.

— from Gayle Anderson



[See myMetro.net report 06.18.09](#): **Division 10 Bus Operator saves the day in a tight clinch with rioting Laker fans. (Online: CBS2 Evening News interview with Operator Jose Recino)**



Bus 6549, operated by Jose Recinos, was ransacked by rioting Laker fans, who pelted the bus with debris and objects strong enough to break every window with the passengers still inside.