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Accused Metro Red Line Vandals Caught on Social Networking Sites

By Laura Kloth
Staff Writer

(Dec. 29, 2009) Nine people have been arrested for allegedly causing approximately \$172,000 worth of damage to the Metro Red Line and at several bus divisions, officials announced.

Four adults and five juveniles were taken into custody on vandalism charges Dec. 17 following an investigation by several agencies including the Transit Services Bureau-Special Problems Unit of the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, said LASD spokesman Augie Pando.

Two of the individuals arrested were also taken into custody for violation of immigration laws.



[News Report myFoxLA:](#) Hollywood Tagging Crew Targeted in Bust

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www.myfoxla.com/dpp/news/local/hollywood-tagging-crew-targeted-in-bust--20091217



The suspects, whose handiwork is shown here, allegedly targeted Metro's Red Line passenger stations and bus divisions and later bragged about their handiwork on several social networking sites, officials said. Below, Sheriff's Deputies confiscated a collection of spray cans, markers and other tagging paraphernalia during the arrests.

Investigators believe those arrested were members of the HEL (Here Ends Life) Crew, which allegedly targeted Metro property for several months and even bragged about their handiwork on social networking sites like Facebook and MySpace.

The multi-agency operation – dubbed “Lump of Coal for the HEL Crew” – began last January when deputies Kyle Ynclan and Dennis Chuck began investigating several tagging incidents at the Metro Red Line passenger stations and Bus Divisions 2, 7 and 10 in Downtown Los Angeles and West Hollywood.

During the arrest sweep, officials confiscated a variety of spray cans, as well as a large number of markers and slap tags – flyers displaying a gang emblem that are used to quickly tag a site.



The arrests were made with assistance from the Los Angeles Police Dept. Graffiti Investigations Unit, the California Highway Patrol, the Gardena Police Dept., Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), the Redlands Police Department and the Multi-Agency Response Team (MART).

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