



NEWS

APRIL 13, 1994

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MTA BUS FLEET 65 PERCENT CLEAN OF GRAFFITI; MTA EMPLOYEES AND ELECTED OFFICIALS JOIN COMMUNITY TO CLEAN GRAFFITI FROM SOUTH CENTRAL STREETS

Transportation authorities will join dozens of MTA employees and their families to clean up graffiti in South Central Los Angeles Saturday, April 16.

"After an intensive five-month Zero Tolerance Program against graffiti, buses at MTA's Division 5 in South Central L.A. are graffiti-free," said Councilman Richard Alatorre, MTA chairman. "MTA employees and elected officials want to reach out to the South Central community to reaffirm that a graffiti free neighborhood is possible if we continue building upon the MTA's success."

"Buses operating out of Division 5 had the most serious graffiti problem in the system," said Franklin White, MTA chief executive officer. "We attribute our success to the dedication and enthusiasm of MTA employees and managers who decided to set higher standards and were committed to succeed."

Currently there are 1,467 MTA buses operating clean of graffiti from divisions 1, 2, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 12 and 16. Graffiti-free buses comprise 65 percent of the MTA fleet. By next fiscal year the entire MTA bus fleet is expected to be graffiti free.

Graffiti removal was achieved through a Zero Tolerance program that encouraged immediate and consistent removal. MTA service attendants removed graffiti from buses every night until graffiti was progressively eradicated. Cleaned buses have remained graffiti-free for longer periods of time as the program advances.

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Other graffiti prevention programs implemented by the MTA include elementary school education programs to teach the negative effects of tagging; school and community lectures to mobilize citizens into action against vandalism; supervision of MTA buses during peak vandalism hours; and art competitions and exhibits for youngsters to build a sense of partnership between them and the agency.

MTA graffiti cleaning performed by volunteers traditionally concentrates on buses and transportation properties. However, since the 206 buses operating out of Division 5 are graffiti-free, this Saturday volunteers will clean graffiti, rubbish and debris on the streets along the corridors served by MTA buses. **The group of volunteers will assemble at MTA Division 5, 5425 S. Van Ness Avenue, in South Central Los Angeles at 8 a.m. The Public is invited.**

RESIDENTS OF LOS ANGELES COUNTY MAY REPORT TAGGING AND VANDALISM INVOLVING MTA PROPERTIES AND BUSES BY CALLING 1-800-STOP-TAG.

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