



NEWS

MAY 12, 1994

CONTACT: RICK JAGER/JIM SMART
MTA PRESS RELATIONS
(213) 244-6165, 244-6347
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MTA TRANSIT POLICE GETS \$1.1 MILLION GRANT FROM U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE TO HIRE 12 MORE POLICE OFFICERS

MTA's Transit Police Department will be able to hire 12 more officers for its community policing effort as a result of a \$1.1 million police hiring grant from the U.S. Department of Justice announced by President Clinton in Washington, D.C., Thursday.

The MTA is one of 14 entities throughout the state that will receive a portion of the \$8.9 million grant earmarked for the hiring of 101 police officers in California. The funds were made available through the D.O.J.'s Police Hiring Supplement Program.

"The \$1.1 million grant is excellent news for the public transportation riders of Los Angeles County," said Richard Alatorre, MTA's Board chairman and a Los Angeles City Councilman. "With Sen. Dianne Feinstein's help, we will now be able to put even more officers on the street to ensure the public's safety."

Sen. Feinstein played a key role in garnering the funds, writing to the DOJ in support of enhanced police hiring for the MTA and throughout the state.

"We expect the grant funds to be available later this summer, at which time Transit Police Chief Sharon Papa can begin the hiring process," said Franklin White, MTA's chief executive officer. "This is indeed welcome news for everyone concerned about security on our buses and trains."

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"This grant will assist us in deploying a new transit community-based policing unit in South Central Los Angeles," said Chief Papa. "This area has a high degree of transit usage and we look forward to providing MTA patrons with a higher level of police service."

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