



JUNE 15, 1994

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MTA POLICE TO PATROL BLUE LINE BEGINNING JULY 1

MTA Police will assume responsibility for security on the Metro Blue Line starting July 1, 1994.

"This transfer of security responsibility comes following the MTA Board's decision April 27 to designate the MTA Police as our provider of all security services," said MTA Chairman and Los Angeles City Councilman Richard Alatorre. "The security needs of our riding public on the bus system, as well as Metro Rail, will be met with greater efficiency and control of our policing efforts," he added.

"MTA Police are undergoing training and orientation in Blue Line security to ensure a seamless transition on July 1," said Sharon Papa, MTA Chief of Police. "They will patrol the rail cars, station platforms and grade crossings, and staff the dispatch center at the MTA's Central Control Facility in Lynwood."

MTA Police will add 79 sworn officers during the next fiscal year, enlarging the size of the force to 425 officers. The number of security guards will also be increased to 114.

"Future responsibilities for the Transit Police include the Metro Green Line, due to open in 1995, additional Red Line sections which are scheduled to open between 1996 and the year 2000, and the Pasadena Blue Line," said Franklin White, MTA's CEO. "We believe the use of our own police officers will result in quality protection for our riders at economical costs."

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