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**MTA APPROVES AGREEMENT TO OVERSEE
HOLLYWOOD BLVD. SECURITY SERVICES**

The MTA Board today approved a motion to authorize staff to enter into an agreement with the Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) of the City of Los Angeles for the MTA to coordinate a security guard service along Hollywood Boulevard and the areas surrounding Metro Red Line station sites in Hollywood.

The CRA, which launched a Hollywood Boulevard Security Program a year ago to deter crime and to assist visitors and residents, has opted to contract with the MTA to cut costs and avoid duplication of services. The CRA will pay the MTA up to \$500,000 for a one-year contract, while the existing contract costs \$750,000 for a year.

Approval is anticipated from the Los Angeles City Council in July. A new MTA system-wide security contract with a private security firm, which includes the Hollywood Boulevard patrol service, is scheduled for MTA board approval at its July 27 meeting. The private security firm selected by the MTA will then provide up to 15 unarmed security officers for the Hollywood Boulevard detail.

The program will be managed by MTA Security Operations Manager, Pam Murano, a civilian employe of the MTA Transit Police Department. Close coordination will be maintained with the Los Angeles Police Department.

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"This is a logical and sound approach to security coverage in the Hollywood area," said Franklin White, the MTA's chief executive officer. "By combining the existing CRA program with the MTA's existing program, security planning, implementation and reporting will be better managed, which will, in turn, benefit the Hollywood community."

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