



NEWS

September 10, 1994

Contact: Clara Potes-Fellow/Jim Smart
MTA Press Relations
(213)244-6566/244-6347
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MTA AND COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS WILL FOCUS ON GRAFFITI CLEAN UP THIS SATURDAY

More than 18 community organizations will join MTA board members and staff on a Community Clean-Up Day, Saturday, Sept 10.

The event, to be held at MTA's Cypress Park Operating Division 3, will concentrate on graffiti cleaning on the streets within one mile distance of MTA Division 3. The streets targeted for clean up include Idell Street, Avenue 26th, Figueroa Street and Avenue 28th.

Cleaning crews armed with shovels, brooms and paint will restore the appearance of the community including bus benches, bus shelters, bus stops and walls.

"The MTA's vandalism abatement program is not only making MTA's buses and facilities clean, but it is reaching into the communities we serve," said Councilman Richard Alatorre a member of the MTA Board. "With the help of residents and community based organizations the MTA is helping to improve the appearance of the neighborhoods close to MTA facilities."

(MORE)

The MTA's vandalism abatement program has three components: (1) Clean up and prevention, (2) community outreach and education and (3) law enforcement and mitigation.

"The MTA's vandalism abatement program has exceeded all expectations," said Franklin White, MTA Chief Executive Officer. "The program's goal for the fiscal year 1993-94 was to provide graffiti-free service on 1,508 buses, which represents 66% of the total bus fleet. At the end of fiscal year 1994 the MTA had surpassed that goal with 1,538 buses clean of graffiti. During the next fiscal year the MTA will sustain this level until achieving a graffiti-free bus fleet."

The MTA sponsors graffiti clean-up events to promote the spirit of a graffiti-free community and to teach ownership and pride of the transportation system. These events involve MTA's bus operators, mechanics, service attendants and other members of the staff. All of them participate as volunteers. Community outreach efforts last year reached more than 500,000 students, parents, business owners and civic organizations.

Other education efforts include a NO TAG program developed by the MTA Transit Police that includes a 13-week lesson targeted to students of third and fourth grade. The program develops a sense of responsibility and self-esteem that helps participants resist the pressure for involvement in tagging, gangs and other anti-social behavior.

MTA's law enforcement efforts include the Graffiti Habitual Offender Suppression Team (GHOST) to apprehend and prosecute hard core taggers.

Elected officials scheduled to attend Saturday's event include Supervisor Gloria Molina, Councilman Richard Alatorre, Councilman Mike Hernandez and MTA Board Member Vivian Bonzo.

The event will take place between 8 a.m. and 12 p.m., at 630 W. Avenue 28, Los Angeles 90065.

COMMUNITY AND BUSINESS ORGANIZATIONS PARTICIPATING (Partial List)

Harvey Universal Company

Berendo Middle School

Glassell Park Elementary School

St. Ignacius Elementary School

Our Lady of Soledad Church

Marshall High School

Alhambra Karate Club

Cypress Park Library

Cypress Park Recreation Center

Helping Our Youth Organization (HOY)

El Sereno Middle School Mariachi

Boys Scout Troup 91

Youth Gang Services

Sabrina's Castle Fun Foundation

Brotherhood Crusade

Rosemead High School Wrestling Team

Calvary Church

Unity Lodge

#

MTA-CPF

MTA-247