



January 22, 2004

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## **MTA Board Approves New Cleanliness Policy to Combat Graffiti and Vandalism**

The MTA Board of Directors today approved a new MTA Cleanliness Policy, providing the agency with its first formal policy on their commitment in preventing graffiti and promoting its eradication for the purpose of preserving Metro facilities and vehicles.

"Today's Board action underscores the MTA's commitment to be a regional leader on this issue by aggressively stamping out all forms of graffiti and vandalism and protecting our bus and rail vehicles, rail stations, bus stops and facilities for the comfort and safety of our passengers," said MTA Board Chairman Zev Yaroslavsky.

The purpose of the new Cleanliness Policy is to improve Metro customers' quality of life on the transit system by augmenting current processes to further reduce and more expeditiously remove the effects of vandalism on bus and rail vehicles, rail stations, bus stops and other Metro facilities.

At the urging of MTA Board Member and LA City Councilman Antonio Villaraigosa, a taskforce was formed to make recommendations in the development of the Cleanliness Policy.

As part of the policy, MTA will maintain a high, measurable level of cleanliness for all its property and will create programs that target utilization of new equipment that is revolutionary, results oriented, and be clearly measurable and offer the greatest opportunity for sustaining improvement.

In addition, staff will develop a comprehensive set of operating and cleanliness procedures, processes and measurement criteria to ensure compliance with the cleanliness policy.

MTA also will establish a stringent vehicle inspection rating for the bus and rail fleet and will continue to encourage cooperative working relationships with its law enforcement partner, community, schools, business owners and other public entities to help prevent and remove graffiti as quickly as possible.

Staff will report back to the MTA Board at its February meeting with recommendations to implement a new anti-graffiti and vandalism program called the Metro Clean Program.

**MTA-010**

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