

Chief Bratton and Sheriff Baca listen to the security contract discussions at MTA Board meeting. Seated with them are LAPD Transit Group Commander Robert Hansohn, at left, and Deputy Chief Sharon Papa.



## Board Will Take Another Look at Security Contract Proposals

By BILL HEARD, Editor

(Jan. 29, 2003) The MTA Board is expected to take another look in February at a staff proposal to award an exclusive \$47.2 million contract to the Sheriff's Department for security on the Metro system.

Deputy CEO John Catoe told the Board, during its Jan. 23 meeting, that the MTA could save \$21.6 million during the first three years of the five-year contract outlined in the Sheriff's Department proposal.

"This recommendation provides an excellent security program at the lowest cost to the MTA," Catoe told the Board, adding that it would provide more patrol officers than are currently deployed, civilian fare inspectors and security for the Metro Gold Line.

After a lengthy discussion and presentations from MTA staff, Sheriff Lee Baca, LAPD Chief William Bratton and their staffs, the Board delayed a decision until its February meeting on the negotiation and execution of memorandums of understanding for community transit policing services.

MTA's existing contracts with the two law enforcement agencies expired this month, but the Board has voted to extend their monthly payments.

The Board also is expected next month to take up a motion by Mayor James Hahn that calls for retaining both the Sheriff's Department and the LAPD for three years while MTA re-establishes its own transit police force. The former Transit Police Department was merged with the Sheriff's Department and LAPD in 1997.

PHOTOS: BILL HEARD



Los Angeles County Sheriff Lee Baca and LAPD Chief William Bratton gave presentations during the MTA Board's discussion of their security contract proposals.



### **Alternative recommendations**

The MTA staff report includes alternative recommendations for five-year agreements with the two law enforcement agencies.

Under these alternatives, the Sheriff's Department would have responsibility for security on the Metro Blue, Green and Gold Lines and in the San Gabriel Valley, Gateway Cities and South Bay service sectors. The LAPD would be assigned to patrol the Metro Red Line and the Westside/Central and San Fernando Valley service sectors.

A third alternative calls for the staff to develop a proposal to phase out both agencies over a three- to five-year period and either phase in an MTA security force or the Sheriff's Department.

Some 150 Sheriff's deputies currently patrol the Metro Blue and Green Lines and Metro Bus lines in service areas outside the incorporated City of Los Angeles. The LAPD has assigned about 200 officers to patrol the Metro Red Line and bus lines within city boundaries.

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