



Metro

Los Angeles County
Metropolitan Transportation Authority

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Phillip A. Washington
Chief Executive Officer
Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority
One Gateway Plaza
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Mr. Washington,

The Members of the Metro Citizens' Advisory Council (CAC) have been proactively interested in the quality of service being delivered on the Metro Blue Line. That interest has been piqued by diminishing ridership and continuing incidents that threatens the quality of life of our ridership. As advisors to the Metro Board of Directors, the CAC is compelled to bring this forward to your attention for further investigation and immediate action.

In recent months the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (LACMTA) Metro Blue Line which travels from Downtown Los Angeles' 7th Street/Metro Center to Downtown Long Beach has seen an increase of violent crimes and safety concerns for all passengers who utilize this public transit system.

Throughout 2016, the CAC has observed an increase in crime and lack of security presence on Metro Blue Line. In September, a widely shared video of an attack shows a woman repeatedly stomping on a man in a train car while the Blue Line was en route. Earlier this year on April 15, a man was stabbed to death at the Wardlow Station. These two incidences are only a few of the many scenarios passengers experience while riding on the Blue Line. Many passengers experience illegal vending and unwanted solicitation which can create potentially harmful situations to passengers.

Our discussions revolve around passenger safety, security and quality of life concerns. Studying Metro's performance from a sustainability perspective has led the council to consider two disparate issues. First, how will Metro obtain the revenues necessary to support the operation of an expanding rail network and second, how does Metro's performance impact the goal of broaden the scope of marketing via enhancing ethnic and economic diversity of ridership.

It is critically important that your office with the assistance of Metro Security and its contractors, (the Sheriff's Department Transit Policing Division) immediately investigate incidents like these and implement enhanced safety procedures.

If the Blue Line is found to require new safety enhancements and procedures, the Metro CAC respectfully requests your office report back with a list of recommended safety features to the CAC and board. The Metro CAC strongly believes that a critical component to increase ridership is the safety and security of its passengers. We are encouraged by your leadership and recent actions that this goal can be achieved.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter. If you have any further questions please contact me at: # (213) 814-8212 or email at commissionersotelo@hotmail.com.

Sincerely,

Dalila Sotelo
Chair

Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority
Citizens' Advisory Council

DS: bt

Cc: John Fasana, Metro Board Chair

Alex Wiggins, Metro Chief System Security & Law Enforcement Officer