

September 23, 2016

Phillip A. Washington
Chief Executive Officer
Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Agency
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 Metro Rail Service being delivered on the Metro Blue Line. That interest has been piqued, by allegedly diminishing ridership that could, in turn, result in diminished voter support for badly needed further development of our Metro Rail Network.

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. The most recent attack occurred last month. The widely shared video of this 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, 2016, 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 soliciting which can create a potentially harmful situations to passengers.

The discussions of this council have revolved 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 the Metro Board and the Transit Policing Division (TPD) address investigating incidences like these immediately and determine if enhanced safety procedures could prevent these incidences from reoccurring.

The Metro CAC is requesting the TPD immediately investigate the safety of the Blue Line. Additionally, if the Blue Line is found to require new safety enhancements and procedures, the Metro CAC requests the the Board and the TPD report back with a list of recommended safety features so we may provide citizens with an update of how safety concerns on the Blue Line are being addressed.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter. If you have any further questions please contact me at (XXX) XXX-XXXX or email at username@gmail.com.

Sincerely,

Dalila Sotelo
Chair
Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority
Citizen's Advisory Council

DS: bt

Cc: