



Metro

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TO: BOARD OF DIRECTORS

THROUGH: PHILLIP A. WASHINGTON *SW*
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER *for*

FROM: ALEX WIGGINS *AW*
EXECUTIVE OFFICER, SYSTEM SECURITY AND LAW ENFORCEMENT

SUBJECT: SECURITY AND LAW ENFORCEMENT UPDATE

ISSUE

Update on the measures staff is taking to enhance Metro security and law enforcement operations.

DISCUSSION

Staff currently has several initiatives underway to enhance Metro's safety and security. Concurrently, the System Security and Law Enforcement Department is working with the Communications Department on a "Security Campaign" to decrease crime and harassment on the Metro system as well as educate the public about the various technological tools Metro utilizes to enhance security. This campaign includes the strategic goal of deploying law enforcement and security assets more efficiently. Below is a list of the specific enhancements underway:

- Chief Anda, Transit Policing Division, issued a "Division Order," effective immediately, tasking assets from the Crime Impact Teams to bus and rail operations. These assets have been specifically instructed to increase their patrols throughout the Metro system.
- Staff will redeploy 12 to 14 Metro Transit Security Officers to high volume bus and rail platforms/stations/intermodal connections. With a minimal impact to the overtime budget, these resources will be drawn from existing teams tasked to other functions (K9, mobile patrols, etc.). Gateway Plaza will maintain its current security presence. This redeployment will take place as early as September 10, 2015. Staff and unions have been briefed in advance.

- Consistent with best practices in security deployment, Metro Transit Security Officers are now wearing high visibility vests while on patrol. The officers were issued high visibility vests last year; however the vests are not ideal for wearing over their uniforms on a daily basis. Staff is working to acquire permanent vests specifically customized for their uniforms.
- Oversight and coordination between LASD and Metro Transit Security is underway to ensure that assets are deployed effectively and in a complementary manner. Staff will use existing crime analysis data, feedback from bus and rail operators, prior customer service surveys, and first-hand management observations to assign/shift resources as necessary. Performance will be monitored by Chief Anda, Transit Policing Division, and Alex Wiggins, Executive Officer of System Security and Law Enforcement.
- Elevated “SkyWatch” security towers will be deployed to field locations to increase visibility and deter crime. The SkyWatch towers use real-time and remote video surveillance to multiply police/security presence. Metro recently took delivery of four (4) grant funded SkyWatch towers and is working with LASD and Communications to design the branding. The towers are expected to be deployed in the field within the next 30 days.
- Security Kiosks will be installed at high volume rail locations, specifically the subway plazas. Metro is expecting delivery of nine (9) kiosks in the coming weeks and the kiosks are expected to be deployed to the field within the next 45 days.
- Staff is moving forward with innovative, “Problem-Oriented Policing” strategies to address long-term concerns about blight and disorder at Pershing Square, Westlake/MacArthur Park, and Firestone Stations. Shifting from a response-based to a problem-oriented philosophy will allow Metro to partner with external stakeholders to solve these problems rather than relying on enforcement alone.
- Communications will launch a refreshed education campaign to engage the public in the transit safety process including being active participants in the “If you see something, say something” program, encouraging them to be an extension of the ears and eyes of our system.

NEXT STEPS

Metro Staff will provide additional updates on the status of the initiatives discussed and continue to determine long-term solutions to enhance Metro’s security and law enforcement.