



APRIL 2, 1996

Los Angeles County  
Metropolitan  
Transportation  
Authority

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TO: BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
FROM: LACMTA'S CITIZENS' ADVISORY COUNCIL (CAC)  
SUBJECT: MTA TRANSIT POLICE

**ISSUE**

The merging of the MTA Transit Police with the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) and the Los Angeles Sheriff's Department (LASD).

**BACKGROUND**

The LACMTA's Citizens' Advisory Council (CAC) has had an opportunity to review the circumstances and facts surrounding the potential merger of the MTA Transit Police with the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) and Los Angeles Sheriff's Department (LASD). **Based on this review, the CAC recommends that the MTA Transit Police Department remain a permanent entity of the MTA.**

Attached is a motion adopted by the CAC at the March CAC General Membership Meeting.

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LOS ANGELES COUNTY MTA  
CITIZENS' ADVISORY COUNCIL (CAC)

MOTION

The Citizens' Advisory Council (CAC) of the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) has had an opportunity to review the circumstances and facts surrounding the potential merger of the MTA police and the Los Angeles Police Department/Los Angeles Sheriff's Department (LAPD/LASD). Based on our evaluation, the CAC strongly recommends to the MTA Board that the MTA Transit Police Department remain a permanent entity of the MTA. The CAC does not support the merger of the MTA police into the Los Angeles Police Department/Los Angeles Sheriff's Department for the following reasons:

**MTA Transit Police Department's Mission :** The Mission statement of the MTA Transit Police Department is to provide dedicated transit law enforcement and security for the MTA. The MTA Transit Police Department is responsible for protection and security of MTA passengers, employees, revenues, property and assets. The programs of the MTA Transit Police are directly focused on transit specific service. The Transit Police provide service, information, direction and a helping hand. The officers have been selected and trained to reflect this "service oriented" attitude and have chosen transit policing as their profession.

The proposed merger would result in dilution or elimination of this service-oriented approach in the officers who police the mass transit system.

**Direct Control:** The MTA Transit Police Department reports directly to and is responsible to the MTA. Any other alternative creates additional levels of bureaucracy that can only dilute the directives from the MTA.

**Cost Savings:** Currently, the MTA Transit Police Department operates utilizing only those services which are essential to the mission of the MTA. There is no additional costs such as jail detention facilities, SWAT team, air support, canine units and other layers of bureaucracy. These costs would be allocated to the MTA Transit Police if there was a merger. All these services are currently available to the MTA Transit Police Department at no cost.

**Why Fix What is Not Broken?:** Over the past three years, the MTA Transit Police have been a highlight of MTA performance. This organization has been exemplary in its enforcement of graffiti laws, protection of bus riders, cleaning-up of the Broadway retail area, and in its proactive client-service oriented attitude of its police officers. The real proof of the pudding is that other local, municipal police departments actively seek out MTA officers as recruits for their departments. Numerous chiefs of police state that the MTA officer's positive community-oriented attitude forms the foundation for community policing and represents the best type of recruit for their department.

Based on the issues outlined above, the CAC strongly urges the Board of the MTA to support the continuation of the MTA police as a separate entity directly responsible to the MTA.