



OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

HALL OF JUSTICE

ALEX VILLANUEVA, SHERIFF



April 13, 2022

Hilda L. Solis, Chair
Metro Board of Directors
Metropolitan Transportation Authority
One Gateway Plaza
Los Angeles, California 90012

Dear Chair Solis and Metro Board of Directors:

**LOS ANGELES COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT'S
INTENTION TO BID ON ENTIRE METRO CONTRACT**

On December 1, 2021, I sent your board a letter providing details on how Metro could save more than \$30 million annually, simply by contracting solely with the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department (Department) for the entire transit system. It is my understanding Metro intends to request an extension of the existing multi-agency contract, while your staff proceeds with a request for proposal for a new contract. It is unknown how Metro intends to handle this process as only the scope of work was provided for comment. I would like to inform your board the Department intends to bid solely on the entire Metro contract, including all current Department jurisdiction, along with the cities of Los Angeles and Long Beach. The Department will not be bidding or continuing to participate in a failed multi-agency model for the next policing contract.

Metro has limited the ability of law enforcement to effectively do our job protecting the hard-working residents and visitors of Los Angeles County utilizing the public transit system. In 2017, Metro approved the existing multi-agency contract. During those contract discussions, Metro rejected the Department's recommended deployment structures and reduced it to the lowest possible deployment levels. In fact, during those discussions, the Department informed Metro staff that any further reduction in staffing would have resulted in the Department rescinding its bid. This effectively defunded law enforcement in 2017 and reduced staffing across the system. Then in September 2017, Metro directed the Department to stop conducting fare enforcement. Following this, the Department was directed to stop conducting code of conduct enforcement.

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These changes have resulted in disastrous effects that can be seen by anyone utilizing Metro. This multi-agency deployment reduces the effectiveness of law enforcement to coordinate responses to crimes impacting the entire system. The reduction of Department personnel in our areas has had a direct impact on our ability to protect the system. Eliminating fare enforcement and code of conduct has had a direct impact on law enforcement's ability to enhance the rider's experience and keep riders safe. Ultimately, these decisions have promoted a feeling of lawlessness across the system. Crime has increased across the system, homelessness is rampant including individuals that are living on the transit system, and the results have become predictable – less choice riders and a system that has an overall feeling of being unsafe.

The Department wants to be a part of the solution, but this can only be done with the partnership and full support from Metro and your Board. This is the reason why the Department will only be providing a bid to be the sole law enforcement provider for the system. In addition to bidding on the entire system, the Department will require the ability to enforce code of conduct violations along with fare enforcement when necessary. The Department is the only law enforcement agency in Los Angeles County with over 315 full-time dedicated staff specialized in transit policing. The Department's deputies work full time for Metro. We are not an "overtime" model, and our specialty and expertise is public transit. We have specialized transit detectives, explosive detection K-9 units, anti-terrorism trained Special Assignment Transit teams, Commuter Enhancement Teams, Transit Mental Health Evaluation Teams, and Metro Team Leaders. Additionally, we are the only law enforcement agency in Southern California with a dedicated transit law enforcement dispatch center and trained transit dispatchers.

Effective July 1, 2022, we will redeploy our personnel to other critical public safety needs, absent a commitment by your board upon expiration of this current contract on June 30, 2022.

Should you have any questions or require additional information, please contact Commander John L. Satterfield, Office of the Sheriff at [REDACTED].

Sincerely,



ALEX VILLANUEVA
SHERIFF