



**DOWNTOWN
LONG BEACH
ALLIANCE**

November 16, 2016

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

RE: MTA Decision on Local Enforcement Agencies at Metro Stations

Dear Mr. Washington

The Downtown Long Beach Alliance (DLBA) encourages the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) Board to move forward with shifting the responsibilities of metro station safety, security, and enforcement duties from the Sheriff's Department to the Los Angeles and Long Beach Police Departments at the December 1 MTA Board meeting.

The DLBA is a non-profit organization that represents approximately 1,600 businesses and 4,000 commercial and residential property owners within the two Business Improvement Districts (BIDs) in Downtown Long Beach. We strongly support the transfer of policing duties for the eight Long Beach Blue Line stations to the Long Beach Police Department (LBPD).

Downtown Long Beach possesses half of the eight Blue Line stations within the City of Long Beach. Nearly 20% of riders going northbound access the Blue Line at one of the four Downtown stations, and nearly 24% of riders heading southbound, exit at one of the four Downtown stations. It is for this reason, safety and security of these stations are a top priority to both our business and residential stakeholders.

To support the work of law enforcement, we have asked that our Downtown Safety Ambassadors patrol and monitor the areas around the various metro stations. While this practice has increased security and safety over the years, fare evasion and ridership's perception of safety have continued to be ongoing concerns to Downtown stakeholders.

The current system has stretched resources across a number of different stations throughout Los Angeles County, forcing some stations to lack the adequate policing resources needed to meet MTA goals. Utilizing the LBPD at Long Beach stations would vastly improve law enforcement's ability to patrol and enforce existing traffic laws, alleviating the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department (LASD) resources to focus on key areas outside of Long Beach. In addition, this would ease the concerns of Downtown residents when it comes to lack of police visibility at some stations.

We encourage the MTA Board to move forward at its December meeting with the proposed transfer of law enforcement responsibilities from the LASD to LBPD on the Blue Line operating within the city of Long Beach.

Thank you in advance for your consideration and support.

Sincerely,

Kraig Kojian
President & CEO

cc; Mayor Robert Garcia, City of Long Beach
Long Beach City Council
DLBA Board of Directors
Chief Robert Luna, Long Beach Police Department