



**DOWNTOWN
LONG BEACH
ALLIANCE**

February 14, 2017

Long Beach City Council
333 W Ocean Blvd
Long Beach, CA 90802

RE: MTA Decision on Local Enforcement Agencies at Metro Stations

Dear Long Beach City Council

The Downtown Long Beach Alliance (DLBA) supports the Council's decision to encourage 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 February 23 MTA Board meeting.

The DLBA is a non-profit organization that represents more than 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. Safety and security of these stations are a top priority to riders as well as to our business and residential stakeholders.

To support the work of law enforcement, DLBAs 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 overall 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, while alleviating Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department (LASD) resources to focus on key areas outside of Long Beach. In addition, having LBPD patrol the Blue Line will increase the confidence level and ease the safety concerns of our Downtown stakeholders.

We are pleased to see the Council encouraging the MTA Board to take the appropriate action at its February 23 meeting to transfer the 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