



SHERIFF'S HEADQUARTERS

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News Release

Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, Transit Services Bureau Detectives arrested a male Hispanic juvenile suspect wanted in connection with the aggravated beating of a Male Black, 43 years old, that occurred on February 17, 2014, at the Hawthorne Metro Green Line Station. Transit Services Bureau Detectives are still looking to identify a second suspect, who remains at large.

The victim reported to Transit Services Bureau Deputies that on the day in question, at approximately 9:45 PM, he was standing on the sidewalk in front of the Hawthorne Metro Green Line Station, when he was approached by the two young male Hispanics. The suspects asked him questions that led him to believe that he was going to be robbed. Unprovoked, the suspects then began to punch and kick the victim. They also beat him with skateboards they had in their possession. The victim became disoriented and fell to the ground. The beating continued until a witness yelled at the suspects that he was going to call the police. The identified juvenile suspect yelled at both the victim and the witness, who was also African American, a racial slur that "(Blacks) were not welcome around here!" Both suspects then ran down Hawthorne Boulevard and out of sight.

Using the statements and description given by both the victim and witness, and using video obtained from the Metro Station, Sheriff's Transit Services Bureau Detectives were able to identify the main aggressor. On February 26th, Deputies from the Transit Services Bureau Crime Impact Team searched the home of the juvenile suspect, and found evidence linking him to the crime. Although the arrested suspect would not identify his accomplice, he did implicate himself in the crime.

The suspect was booked at the Sheriff's Century Regional Detention Facility for Assault with a Deadly Weapon (245(a)(1) P.C.), and is being held on a no bail hold due to the fact that he is a minor. Detective Keith Schumaker, who is investigating the crime says that there could be additional charges sought. "The (LA County) District Attorney is looking into the fact that he (the suspect) allegedly used a racial slur while beating the victim, and allegedly used that same slur to attempt to intimidate the witness, is considering filing a Hate Crime enhancement on this case." Schumaker said that the suspect at large will face the same charges when captured and detectives are currently following up leads to his whereabouts.

The suspect who is still at large is described as a male Hispanic, possibly 15 to 19 years old,

5'10", 140 pounds, and was seen during the attack wearing a black striped shirt, black pants, and a black jacket. If you see him, or know who this person is, please call Sheriff's Transit Services Bureau 24 hour desk at (888) 950-SAFE (7233). (no photographs are available at this time)

Transit Services South Bureau Captain Karl Schow said that he believed this was indeed an isolated incident, but one that warrants attention. "Our (Sheriff's Transit) focus has always been on the safety of Metro patrons and employees. Although these types of crimes are rare on the Metro system, our investigators are very skilled in identifying the responsible parties quickly." The investigation is ongoing.

If you have any information regarding this incident, or can identify the suspect still at large, you are asked to please contact the L.A. County Sheriff's Transit Services Bureau, Detective Keith Schumaker, or Detective Sergeant Eric Jaime at: (323) 563-5000. If you wish to remain anonymous, call "LA Crime Stoppers" by dialing 800-222-TIPS (8477), texting the letters "TIPLA" plus your tip to CRIMES (274637), or using the website <http://lacrimestoppers.org>

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