

George Chavez
City Manager



April 20, 2022

Mayor James T. Butts
City Hall
1 Manchester Boulevard
Inglewood, CA 90301
email: Mayor@CityofInglewood.org

Re: Security for the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority's Transit System

Dear Mayor Butts,

On behalf of the City of Beverly Hills, I write to inform you of our OPPOSITION to Los Angeles County Sheriff Alex Villaneuva's proposal to have the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority Metro ("Metro") Board give him full control over security for Metro's transit system. Our City places the highest priority on the safety of our visitors, residents, and businesses. Our City believes his proposal would undermine the public safety for people using both the Wilshire/La Cienega and Wilshire/Rodeo purple line stations when they open for service. Additionally, Los Angeles Police Department Chief Michael Moore has stated Sheriff Villanueva's proposal is not good for Metro's transit system.

Our City Council is dedicated to ensuring our visitors, residents, and businesses are safe and secure. Over the last few years, our City Council has invested funding in implementing closed circuit television to help solve crimes. Additionally, since 2020, our City Council has authorized millions of dollars annually to augment our City's Police Department personnel with armed security patrols in our business district as well as our residential areas.

Most recently, on April 12, 2022, our City Council authorized funding and personnel for the establishment of a Real Time Crime Watch Center in order to continue our dedication to maintaining a safe community. The City Council also authorized the use of an Unmanned Aerial System Drone Program (UAS) to provide information to responding police officers on any crime in progress.

The proposal outlined in the Los Angeles Times on April 14, 2022, by Sheriff Villanueva threatens to undermine the public safety of not only Metro, but of our City. Per our Memorandum of Agreement for

Contract C1120 of the Purple Line Extension Project – Section 2 between the City of Beverly Hills and the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (“MOA”), law enforcement services for Metro facilities located within Beverly Hills, specifically the Wilshire/La Cienega and Wilshire/Rodeo stations, must meet a specific standard of staffing (page 53 of the MOA). This staffing is outlined in Exhibit U as 24 hours a day, 7 days a week coverage with two police officers and one police sergeant per shift which shall be supplemented by Metro Security Officers at both stations with two Security Officers per shift.

In the Los Angeles Times article, Sheriff Villanueva is threatening to remove the Los Angeles County Department peace officers from patrolling Metro’s transit system unless Metro’s Board gives him full control over security. This proposal is extremely concerning to our City as the Sheriff could arbitrarily decide to provide less staff to the Metro stations in Beverly Hills than what is required by the MOA. This would not only be a violation of the MOA, but it also would threaten the public safety of those using the two Metro stations to visit or work in Beverly Hills.

For these reasons, the City of Beverly Hills is OPPOSED to Sheriff Villanueva’s proposal, which requests that the Metro Board authorizes the Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department as the sole law enforcement agency for the entirety of Metro’s transit system. We are also OPPOSED to providing authorization to Sheriff Villanueva, which would give him full control over the security of the transit system.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G. Chavez', with a stylized flourish at the end.

George Chavez, City Manager
City of Beverly Hills

cc: Metro Board Members
Beverly Hills City Council