



Metropolitan Transit System

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September 12, 2012

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SAN DIEGO
COUNTY GRAND JURY

James R. Lewis, Foreman
Grand Jury
County of San Diego
330 W. Broadway, Suite 477
San Diego, CA 92101-3830

Re: Newsracks

Dear Foreman Lewis:

San Diego Metropolitan Transit System (MTS) is in receipt of the Grand Jury Report titled "City of San Diego Newsrack Permits and Enforcement" dated April 19, 2012. That reports makes four recommendations as to MTS. In compliance with Penal Code section 933.05(b), each recommendation and MTS' response is listed below.

12-11: Adopt an ordinance regulating the location, number and condition of newsracks on MTS property.

MTS Response: No ordinance is required. However, on May 17, 2012, MTS adopted Board Policy No. 61 (attached) which addresses newsracks on MTS-owned or -controlled property. This policy governs the location, number and condition of newsracks on MTS property.

12-12: Issue a sticker for each permitted newsrack showing the current permit information (publication, distributor, year, rack number and location), either in print or digital form, and require those stickers to be displayed on newsracks.

MTS Response: Board Policy No. 61.3(b) requires that each newsrack on MTS property "shall have a permit sticker issued by MTS affixed to it in a readily visible place setting forth the name, address, working telephone number, and working email address of the publisher where official correspondence regarding the newsrack will be sent. Each sticker will have a unique permit number for tracking current status."

12-13: Develop a searchable, sortable database of information about each newsrack listed in a permit application. Require permit applicants to submit their newsrack information in a digital format compatible with that database.

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Metropolitan Transit System (MTS) is a California public agency comprised of San Diego Transit Corp., San Diego Trolley, Inc., San Diego and Arizona Eastern Railway Company (nonprofit public benefit corporations), and San Diego Vintage Trolley, Inc., a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation, in cooperation with Chula Vista Transit. MTS is the taxicab administrator for seven cities. MTS member agencies include the cities of Chula Vista, Coronado, El Cajon, Imperial Beach, La Mesa, Lemon Grove, National City, Poway, San Diego, Santee, and the County of San Diego.



MTS Response: MTS is in the process of developing a searchable and sortable database of information about each newsrack listed in a permit application.

12-14: Develop a systematic field enforcement program that reviews the permit status and condition of newsracks.

MTS Response: A review of newsrack conditions has been added to the inspection checklist for trolley station platform maintenance. Under this schedule, newsracks are inspected once a week during station platform maintenance inspections.

If you have any additional questions regarding MTS' new newsrack policy, please contact me directly at (619) 557-4512 or karen.landiers@sdmts.com.

Sincerely,



Karen Landers
General Counsel