

MOTION

This morning, during peak rush hour in Brooklyn, New York, a suspect set off a smoke grenade and fired his weapon on a subway train, injuring at least 16 people, including 10 who were shot. While this serious and tragic incident occurred outside of the State of California, it is indicative of a rising trend nationwide, including here in Los Angeles, of rising violent crimes on transit systems and station stops and platforms.

A March 2022 *Los Angeles Times* article details that even with gas prices in California at an all-time-high, public transit ridership is not increasing, citing safety as a primary concern for riders. The article states that violent crimes on the system increased by over 35% last year, according to Metro's data. Rape, aggravated assault, and homicides rose for the second year in a row.

Metro also recently released the results of their FY23 Budget Survey that was broadly distributed to Los Angeles County residents. One survey response reveals that both riders and non-riders recommend that Metro spend the most dollars on "**More security and law enforcement**," even though other expenditure opportunities in the same survey question included things like, "free fare," "reliable and frequent service," "more train lines," and "non-law enforcement safety programs (including mental health crisis specialists)."

Given the recent spike in violent crimes in and around transit, as well as the changing perceptions of the need for alternative approaches to public safety on transit systems, it is imperative that we review the City and County's approach to public safety in transportation.

**I THEREFORE MOVE** that the Los Angeles Department of Transportation and the Los Angeles Police Department be DIRECTED to report back on how to improve safety in all City transit systems and station stops as it relates to serious and violent crimes.

**I FURTHER MOVE** that the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro) be REQUESTED to report with past and upcoming efforts to curtail the issue of violent crimes on trains, buses, and transportation stops, including an analysis of armed and unarmed response models.

PRESENTED BY: Joe Buscaino

JOE BUSCAINO  
Councilmember, 15th District

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