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MBTA: Youth arrests plumme

different strategies Transit cops, using for juveniles, see arrests

more "progressive" strategies ending **BOSTON** Several years after meted, said T officials. and arrest rates have plum-MBTA, Transit Police are using juveniles traveling on the approach to troublesome ಎ zero-tolerance

In the late 1990s through

according to T officials. accusing the department of with normal teen behavior unfair tactics when dealing cries from the community resulted in lawsuits and outaccording to T statistics. This juvenile arrests annually zero-tolerance mer chief logged up to 650 2002, T police under the for But the tide has turned approach largely

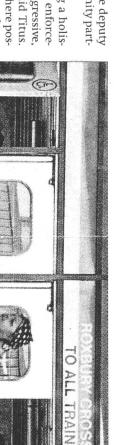
according to Shenandoah approach to teen issues, standing of youth problems grams and a greater underhave changed the officers because training, new projuvenile arrests In 2005, police made 160

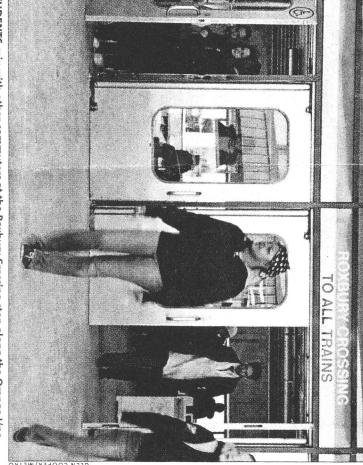
> director of community part-Titus, Transit Police deputy

when necessary." sible, and we will enforce innovative way," said Titus "We will educate where posment. ...a more progressive, tic approach to law enforce "We are applying a holis

standing youth behavior. half of training on under arrested. Last month, T officers finished a year-and-anary action instead of being school officials for disciplibehavior they are referred to police for inappropriate when a teen is picked up by kids what will happen to sequence cards" that remind sending kids to lockup. The I ferent programs to avoid on crime, the departmen ly with Boston schools so They are now working closetheir future if they arrested has passed out 100,000 "con the Transit Police are not sof has implemented several dif Although Titus stresses

lawyer with Suffolk Universaid Lisa Thurau-Gray, a were, this is extraordinary," "Compared to where we





STUDENTS mix with other commuters at the Roxbury Crossing stop along the Orange Line yesterday.

who helped spearhead the sity's Juvenile Justice Center,

perspective when it comes to training. Thurau-Gray has a unique

rau-Gray had been a harsh the Transit Police: she reparrest in 2001. For years, Thuresented 11 youths who sued the T alleging unlawful environment Carter to help change the tapped by current Chief Joe ment, but in 2003 was critic of the transit depart-

50,000

Number of kids who travel through the MBTA system every weekday.

stand them," she said. lock them up let's under-...They're saying: Better than the police and the youth sarial relationship between "There's less of an adver-

students to develop a rapdepartments converge on a week, officials from these organizations. Several times stations heavily traveled by cials and social service Watch program, a partnerproblem behavior. port with teens and stop Boston Police, school offiship of Transit Police, Association for its Stopican Public Transportation acknowledged by the Amer-In September, the T was

turned the corner in terms of community trust," said "It seems like we've cwallace@metro-boston.com CHRISTINA WALLACE