

Metro Transit Police Department Working with Homeless Communities

Metropolitan Council – Committee of the Whole
October 3, 2018



Community Oriented Policing and Homeless Response

Initiatives by year

- 2013 – 2015: Operation Deep Freeze
- 2016 – 2017: Unsheltered Service
- 2018: Homeless Action Team

Response Calls

- | | |
|-------------|-------------|
| 2015: 1,273 | 2017: 2,442 |
| 2016: 1,559 | 2018: 1,728 |



Average nightly head count of homeless individuals using Metro Transit for some form of shelter in winter of 2015 / 2016 was 193.



At its height that winter, there were 362 individuals.



Community Engagement

Arresting those needing help is not the answer

St. Stephen's Street Outreach

Catholic Charities

Union Gospel Mission

People Incorporated

Radias Health



CATHOLIC CHARITIES
of St. Paul and Minneapolis



New and ongoing challenges



Operator and staff safety
Passenger safety
Homeless safety
Hygiene



Metro Transit Police Department Homeless Action Team steps in right direction

Working to address multitude of issues:

On going customer service complaints

Community concern about health and safety

Peak of work is from when shelters close
through morning rush



Best Practices research

Los Angeles, Philadelphia , Denver, Portland, Dallas and San Francisco / Oakland



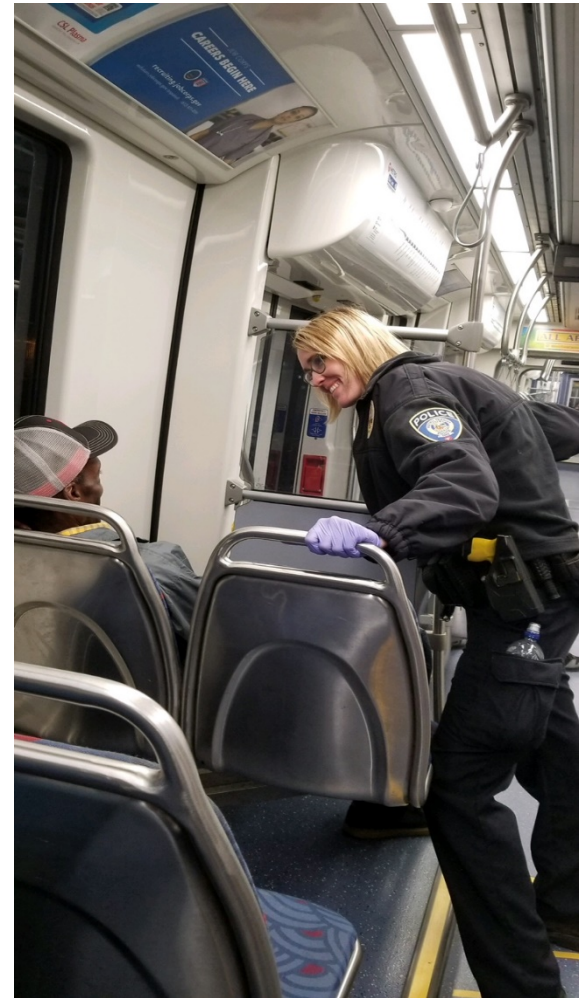
MTPD Homeless Action Team

Next steps

Recruit case workers and street outreach workers

Review Metro Transit Code of Conduct, examining whether to revise or strengthen

Create crime prevention and education plan for service providers and riders



Additional Metropolitan Council actions

Selected a Point Person to coordinate efforts of partners to connect homeless individuals with housing and services

- Develop a registry of homeless using transit as a shelter
- Eliminate duplication of efforts
- Gather information for weekly updates with service partners

Awarded 89 housing vouchers

- Serve homeless persons with disabilities using transit as shelter
- Connect families with housing and services
 - Homeless outreach
 - Pre-move counseling – tenancy readiness training
 - Housing Search assistance
 - Post-move housing stability counseling



Thank You



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