

Meeting #5

Metro Transit Police Work Group

October 15, 2021



Agenda

- 1. Work Plan Item: Conditions on the System – Lt. Ahmed (MTPD), Leah Palmer (MTPD), Lisa Clemons (A Mother's Love) Sgt. Mohamed (MTPD)**
 1. Code of Conduct Overview
 2. Community Partnerships
 3. Homeless Action Team Update
- 2. Review 10/8 Discussion of Shared Values and Principles regarding Safety – Council Member Discussion**
- 3. Plan for October 20 Update to Committee of the Whole – Council Member Discussion**
- 4. Wrap Up/Identify Next Steps – Council Member Discussion**

Work Plan Item: Conditions on the System

- Topics covered today:
 - Code of Conduct Overview
 - Community Partnerships
 - Homeless Action Team Update
- From the August 11 business item establishing the work group: *In designing the Committee of the Whole sessions and in developing the recommended outcomes and strategies, the work group will Address issues raised by Council Members during the Committee of the Whole meetings and through other channels. Topics identified to date include: use of force, **code of conduct enforcement**, interaction with youth, MTPD oversight and governance, officer training, and disaggregated data needs*



The Metro Transit Code of Conduct

- Pay your fare
- Do not distract the driver; stand behind the yellow line
- No smoking
- Keep phone calls brief and quiet
- Shirt and shoes are required
- Keep feet, bags, and service animals off seats
- One fare, one seat
- No laying across seats or on floor
- No eating, alcohol, or drinks in uncovered containers
- Watch your language
- Use headphones and respect others' privacy
- Keep it clean
- Make the ride comfortable for everyone



CUSTOMER CODE of CONDUCT

This is a public space. While on Metro Transit property, we expect customers to abide by this code for the safety and comfort of all.

- Do not distract the driver; stand behind the yellow line.
- No soliciting.
- Keep phone calls brief and quiet.
- Shirts and shoes are required.
- Keep feet, bags and service animals off seats. **One fare, one seat.**
- No laying across seats or on floor.



<https://www.metrotransit.org/code-of-conduct>



Minn. Stat. § 609.855: Crimes Involving Transit

Subd. 3. Prohibited activities; misdemeanor.

(a) A person is guilty of a misdemeanor who, while riding in a vehicle providing public transit service:

- (1) operates a radio, television, tape player, electronic musical instrument, or other electronic device, other than a watch, which amplifies music, unless the sound emanates only from earphones or headphones and except that vehicle operators may operate electronic equipment for official business;
- (2) smokes or carries lighted smoking paraphernalia;
- (3) consumes food or beverages, except when authorized by the operator or other official of the transit system;
- (4) throws or deposits litter; or
- (5) carries or is in control of an animal without the operator's consent.

(b) A person is guilty of a violation of this subdivision only if the person continues to act in violation of this subdivision after being warned once by an authorized transit representative to stop the conduct.



How MTPD Enforces the Code of Conduct

- **Metro Transit Representative:**
 - Politely ask the violator to stop the conduct
 - Call for assistance
 - Submit a report on the incident at the end of their shift
- **MTPD Community Service Officers:**
 - Maintain presence on trains to enhance safety and address any quality-of-life issues
 - Politely remind riders on code of conduct issues
 - Work with sworn officers to monitor and stop disruptive behavior on transit property
- **Metro Transit Police:**
 - Politely ask the violator to stop the conduct
 - Explain the code of conduct along with city ordinances and state law
 - Issue a verbal or written warning
- **De-escalation Techniques:**
 - Intervene and de-escalate conflict among bus operators and customers
 - Establish rapport with persons in crisis
 - Be patient, polite, calm, courteous, and avoid overreacting

Partnerships with Community Groups

- **Community Groups:**
 - Engage with youth in an effort to reduce disruptive behavior on transit property
 - Connect youth with services and resources
 - Respond quickly to help de-escalate situations at bus stops and transit centers
 - Educate riders on code of conduct issues
 - Build relationships with community members
- **Perspective from Community Partner**
 - Lisa Clemons, founder of A Mother's Love Initiatives





MTPD 2021 H.A.T. Homeless Action Team



HAT Highlight



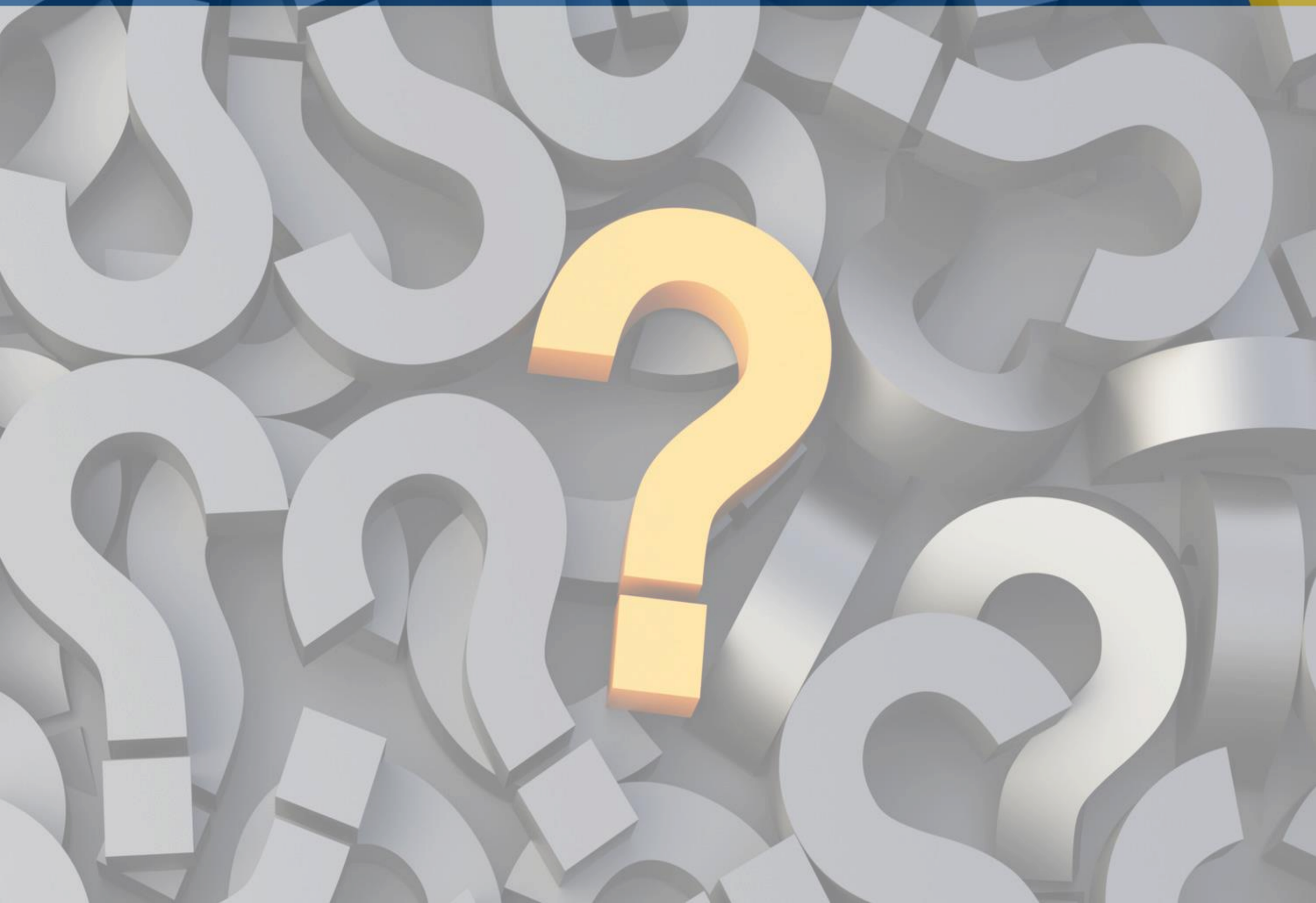
- **Housing Vouchers**
 - Received eight vouchers from Metro/HRA
 - Four out of eight have been housed
 - Three in housing search
- **Coordinated Entry System**
 - Emergency Housing Voucher (EHV)
 - Work through Continuum of Care (COC)
- **Community Partnerships**
 - RADIUS Health
 - A Mother's Love
 - Just Love
 - Women Of Nations
 - Safe Space
 - Freedom House
 - AICDC



- **Encampments**
 - Franklin/Cedar Closure
 - North Loop Encampment
- **Shelters**
 - Winter shelters
 - Elderly program
 - Women's beds
 - Luther Seminary-Como
 - Capital Ridge
- **Upcoming Community Events**
 - Thanksgiving Food Packing
 - Shop With a Cop



QUESTIONS



Review 10/8 Discussion of Shared Values and Principles regarding Safety

This is an opportunity for work group members to reflect on the last meeting's discussion and start identifying values and principles that shape the work group's work.

Plan for October 20 Update to Committee of the Whole

- **Background:** The business item forming this work group established monthly updates from the Police Work Group to the Committee of the Whole. The next update is Wednesday, October 20, 2021.
- For reference as you consider what to include in your 10/20 update, below is a list of what this group has covered since the September COW update:
 - Developed a work plan and schedule (9/23/21)
 - Received an overview of 21st Century Policing at MTPD by Chief Frizell (9/23/21)
 - Received an initial overview of research into other transit agencies' law enforcement and public safety practices (9/23/21)
 - Discussed shared values and principles that will guide this work (10/8/21)
 - Reviewed plan to survey MTPD employees (10/8/21)
 - Received an overview of the Code of Conduct, Community Partnerships, and Homeless Action Team Update (10/15/21)

Next Steps

- Based on today's discussion:
 - Do you want more information on any of the subjects discussed today?
 - Did the group decide anything today that should be noted when drafting recommendations?
- Other next steps?
- Next Work Group Meeting: November 5, 2021



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