Metro Transit Police Department
Working with Unsheltered Communities
Metropolitan Council – Equity Advisory Committee
October 16, 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
- 2016: 1,559
- 2017: 2,442
- 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
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

Identifying and servicing the most vulnerable customers

Responding to dangerous behavioral and Persons in Crisis

**Best Practices research**

Houston

Los Angeles, Philadelphia, Denver, Portland, Dallas and San Francisco / Oakland
MTPD Homeless Action Team

Next steps
Recruit case workers and street outreach workers

Review Draft 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

John M. Harrington
*Chief of Police*
Metro Transit Police Department
612-349-7201
john.harrington@metrotransit.org

Terri Smith
*Director*
Metropolitan Council Housing & Redevelopment Authority
(651) 602-1187
terri.smith@metc.state.mn.us