

Minutes

Committee of the Whole



Meeting date: February 7, 2024

Time: 4:00 PM

Location: 390 Robert Street

Members present:

- Chair, Charlie Zelle
- Judy Johnson, District 1
- Reva Chamblis, District 2
- Tyronne Carter, District 3
- Deb Barber, District 4
- John Pacheco Jr., District 5

- Robert Lilligren, District 6
- Yassin Osman, District 7
- Anjuli Cameron, District 8
- Diego Morales, District 9
- Peter Lindstrom, District 10
- Gail Cederberg, District 11

- Susan Vento, District 12
- Chai Lee, District 13
- Toni Carter, District 14
- Tenzin Dolkar, District 15
- Wendy Wulff, District 16
- = present

Call to order

A quorum being present, Council Chair Zelle called the regular meeting of the Metropolitan Council's Committee of the Whole to order at 4:04 pm

Agenda approved

Council Members did not have any comments or changes to the agenda.

Approval of minutes

It was moved by Lilligren seconded by Chamblis to approve the minutes of the January 17, 2024 regular meeting of the Metropolitan Council's Committee of the Whole. **Motion carried.**

Information

1. Q4 Metro Transit Safety & Security Action Plan Update
Metro Transit General Manager Lesley Kandaras began with an update on the Safety and Security Action Plan. This plan consists of 43 action items, broken down into three areas of work, which include improving conditions on the system; training and supporting employees; and engaging customers and partners. Every quarter an update on these 43 items is put together and will be shared with the Council. For quarter four of 2023, a lot of progress was made with our presence on the system. We have additional police officers, community service officers who began fare inspections, and Allied Security now on contract. Transit Service Intervention Project has begun, with ten contracts with community-based organizations out on the system connecting riders in need to various community organizations. Transit Rider Investment Program (TRIP) is also beginning this month.

Chief Morales presented an update. In 2023 there has been a lot of progress made. Graphs were shown of the summaries from Q1 to Q4. One key takeaway is that the overall crime is down 25%. The overall annual crime trends and top 7 crime data was presented. Overall, for the top 7 crimes there was a 13% decrease from Q1 to Q4. There was an increase in total reported crimes. Part of this is from the 15% increase in ridership this past year, as more people on the system reporting on crime, along with proactive policing.

Chief Morales went over the staffing from Q1 to Q4. The recruitment campaign was launched

in January and advertisements are on buses, trains, shelters and also digital signage. Videos were shared of the recent recruitment campaign.

Council Members appreciated this report and had questions and comments which were addressed. Questions included: question on reporting and tracking of the crimes, what is the mechanism to track citations given; question on the increase in number of officers and staff, how the public can report on safety issues, and how this new data can be shared. Council Members also asked for more data along with the percentages be provided with the next reporting.

Chief Morales introduced Nikki Muehlhausen, who is the new Principal Communications Specialist for the MT Police Department. Muehlhausen explained her position and background. She reported the MTPD is now active in the media with Instagram, X and Facebook. She encouraged all to check out these new media areas.

John Levin, Director of Strategic Initiatives provided an update. Under State Statute, Metro Transit is now to provide annually a Legislative report on Transit Safety & Rider Experience. The required elements were shown. The first report, which is due February 15, will introduce our efforts, and future reports will be more results focused. Once completed, this report will also be provided to council members.

Sophia Ginis, Director of Community Affairs, provided an update. Sophia went over the new Take Pride in Your Ride campaign. These new signs will focus on items that affect the rider's experience the most. February will be the first message, which will be titled 'love your lungs' and include anti-smoking messages. There will be messages in English, Spanish and other languages. Sophia said there will be different topics, which will include issues such as littering and noise. This is an effort to get the message out to our riders, and for keeping riders engaged.

Council members appreciated the presentation for this new campaign, as the code of conduct is important and necessary. These messages and the Take Pride in Your Ride campaign was well received. Members are hearing a lot of positive comments on the improvements.

Chair Zelle thanked all the presenters and encouraged all to participate in ride-alongs and being visible out on the lines.

Adjournment

Business completed; the meeting adjourned at 5:25 p.m.

Certification

I hereby certify that the foregoing narrative and exhibits constitute a true and accurate record of the Metropolitan Council's Committee of the Whole meeting of February 7, 2024.

Approved this 21st of February 2024.

Council contact:

Dawn Hoffner, Recording Secretary
Dawn.Hoffner@metrotransit.org
612-373-3944