



Customer Service, Operations and Security Committee

Information Item III-A

February 9, 2017

Security Annual Report

Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority
Board Action/Information Summary

Action Information

MEAD Number:
201841

Resolution:
 Yes No

TITLE:

MTPD 2016 Annual Security Report

PRESENTATION SUMMARY:

The Metro Transit Police annual security report ensures crime information is publicly communicated to enhance the security of our customers and the protection of Metro employees. This security report will compare crime data from CY2016 to CY2015.

PURPOSE:

The purpose of the MTPD security presentation is to provide WMATA Board Members with information and analysis of annual Part I crime events in the Metro system.

DESCRIPTION:

Crime reduction is a performance measure included in Metro's Strategic Plan. This report provides an accounting of Part I crime for bus, rail and parking facilities in CY2016 and a comparison to crime statistics of CY2015.

Key Highlights:

- Part I crime was reduced by about 4.7% in 2016 compared to 2015.
- Bus operator assaults were reduced by 14% in 2016 compared to 2015.
- In 2016, there were 6,693 citations issued for fare evasion, a 40% increase compared to 2015.
- MTPD introduced new high visibility police uniforms in 2016.

Background and History:

Each year the MTPD reports the number of Part I crimes to provide the Washington region, customers, and employees a comparable year-to-year overview. The following crimes are considered Part I crimes by the Federal Bureau of Investigation: aggravated assault, arson, burglary, homicide, theft, motor vehicle theft, rape, robbery, and human trafficking.

Discussion:

Typical of reported Metro crime statistics in recent years, thefts account for the greatest share of Part I crime and in 2016 accounted for almost 64% of all Part I crime. Bicycle thefts, general thefts, and theft snatches are the top three categories of all Part I crimes.

There were 47 fewer bicycle thefts in 2016 compared to 2015. Early in 2016, MTPD focused patrol, investigative, and crime prevention tactics at rail stations in Northern Virginia where bicycle thefts have been prevalent. These efforts reduced bicycle thefts in that area, and pushed the thefts to Maryland stations such as Twinbrook, and to Green line stations from Fort Totten to Greenbelt. The MTPD adjusted tactics to meet the changing crime hotspots as the year progressed and reduced bicycle thefts by about 15% for the year.

Theft snatches are most commonly associated with thefts of electronic devices from the hands of Metro customers. Theft snatch offenses have declined by more than half since 2012, and in 2016 were reduced by over 29% compared to 2015. In addition to enforcement by MTPD, the crime reduction can also be attributed to customer messaging through signage and printed media in rail stations and on buses, various commercial media outlets, and in-station announcements advising customers to be mindful of their surroundings while travelling in the Metro system.

Thefts from automobiles in Metro garages and parking lots increased by seven additional offenses in 2016 compared to 2015. Thefts from auto statistics were influenced by serial events at some rail station parking venues. For example, 13 airbags were stolen from vehicles at College Park Metro Station, 21 break-ins at Minnesota Avenue, and 25 break-ins at Southern Avenue. Thefts of and attempted thefts of vehicles at Metro stations were on par with 2015. A new crime trend in 2016 was the theft of motor scooters, which are classified as vehicles by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI.) Of the 76 reported offenses, one fourth (19) of stolen vehicles were identified as scooters.

Crimes against persons, including robbery, aggravated assault, rape and homicide, were reduced by 11 crimes comparing 2016 to 2015. Robberies overall were reduced by over 13%. Two of three robbery categories, force and violence, and fear, were reduced by 21% and 35%, respectively. Armed robbery offenses increased by seven events (6.4%) compared to 2015. About 38% of 117 total reported armed robberies occurred at bus stops in 2016. The MTPD Initiated a robbery squad in August, 2016 which resulted in 24 suspects charged with robbery. Other charges included six firearms offenses, three car-jackings, and 20 additional charges. The MTPD robbery squad collaborated with a District of Columbia, Metropolitan Police regional robbery task force that focused on violent crimes. In addition, MTPD Patrol District Commanders worked with District of Columbia Business Information Districts (BIDs) to exchange information on crime, environment concerns (homeless, housekeeping, etc.), and special events in the downtown area.

Aggravated assaults increased by 31% from 2015 (115) to 2016 (151.) Aggravated assaults are described as an unlawful attack on a person using a weapon, displaying a weapon in a menacing manner, or when a victim suffers a severe bodily injury as a result of the attack. Teenagers and young men aged 18 – 24 were both the most frequent victim and suspect. There are three major causes of aggravated assaults: arguments, unknown reasons, and robbery attempts. About two thirds of all aggravated assaults occurred on trains or in rail stations.

The MTPD is responsible for the investigation of one homicide in 2016. The event occurred at Addison Road Metro station in the bus bay. The suspect was chased and

apprehended by MTPD a short distance from the station. There were four additional homicides that occurred in the District of Columbia and are the investigational responsibility of Metropolitan Police Department. In 2016, there were six reports classified as rapes in the Metro system. Five cases occurred on trains or in stations, and one case was onboard a MetroAccess Van. In all six cases, a suspect was identified. As a matter of information, two of the rape cases were unfounded.

A very successful initiative conducted by MTPD, in collaboration with Metrobus and Metrorail employees, involved the reduction of bus operator assaults and fare evasions. Bus operator assaults were reduced by 14%, from 87 in 2015 to 75 assaults in 2016. At three Metrobus divisions, Four Mile, Shepherd Parkway, and Western, bus operator assaults were reduced by at least 50%. The crime reduction initiative included several key actions:

- Safe Watch – Police officers contacting operators at transfer points and along active bus routes
- HITEs – High Intensity Targeted Enforcement
- Respect Your Ride – Youth safe riding training and focus groups
- Bus Operator Assault Symposiums
- Bus Operator Assault Town Hall Meetings
- Bus Division Safety Meetings
- Bus Operator Complaint Forms

In 2016, there were 6,693 citations issued for fare evasion compared to 4,751 in 2015, more than a 40% increase. MTPD also issued 3,913 written warnings compared to 1,740 in 2015, about 125% increase. As a crime deterrent, MTPD conducted daily surge details and flooded key areas with uniformed officers during identified times and locations. In July 2016, the MTPD introduced a new police uniform which featured bright yellow shirt panels with reflective identifying letters and patterns, providing enhanced visibility in rail stations and other low light environments.

FUNDING IMPACT:

Crime enforcement, crime prevention and protection of WMATA assets are the primary mission of the Metro Transit Police and the actions are part of the operating budget.	
Project Manager:	Chief Ronald A. Pavlik, Jr.
Project Department/Office:	Metro Transit Police Department

TIMELINE:

	<p>January 2016 - Establish partnerships with bus employees to reduce crime and increase safety for employees and customers on buses.</p> <p>January 2016 - Continue Respect Your Ride outreach program to promote youth safety and security while riding Metro.</p> <p>March 2016 - Reassign officers and relieve existing patrol</p>
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<p>Previous Actions</p>	<p>officers from revenue protection duties.</p> <p>March 2016 - Insitute midnight patrol "Safe Watch" program to contact bus operators at transfer points and along bus routes.</p> <p>April 2016 - Institute high visibility surge patrols during high crime periods.</p> <p>May 2016 - Security Report to the Customer Service, Operations and Security Committee</p> <p>July 2016 - Sworn officers begin wearing new high visibility uniforms.</p>
<p>Anticipated actions after presentation</p>	<p>January - December 2017 - Continue collaboration with bus employees, enhanced patrols such as HITEs and high visibility surge patrols, and the Respect Your Ride program.</p> <p>January - December 2017 - Continue outreach activities such as meetings with downtown associations, community groups, and town halls.</p> <p>January - December 2017 - Continue enhanced enforcement and prevention of fare evasion offenses.</p> <p>September 2017 - Semi Annual Report to Customer Service, Operations and Security Committee</p>

RECOMMENDATION:

None



Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority

2016 Security Report

Customer Service, Operations and Security Committee
February 9, 2017



2016 Part I Crime Highlights



- Part I crime was down 4.7%
- Bus operator assaults reduced by 14%
- Introduction of new police uniforms
- 40% increase in fare evasion citations



Part I Crime Against Property

Crimes Against Property	Type	2015	2016
Larceny/Theft	Snatch	307	215
	Pickpocket	70	87
	From Auto	185	192
	Bicycle	311	264
	Other	199	243
Auto Theft/Attempts		76	76
Burglary		0	2
Arson		1	4



Bicycle Thefts
Reduced by
15%



Part I Crime Against Persons

Crimes Against Persons	Type	2015	2016
Robbery	Force & Violence	255	201
	Armed	110	117
	Fear	17	11
Aggravated Assault		115	151
Rape		0	*5
Homicide		2	**5

- * Rape includes new expanded FBI definitions
- ** Includes four homicides investigated by local police departments



Bus Operator
Assaults
Reduced by 14%



Sexual Harassment Complaints

Criminal

30 Reports

Criminal Non-Sexual

5 Reports

Harassment

24 Reports



IT'S NOT OK
REPORT SEXUAL HARASSMENT ON METRO

32% Fewer
Reports
From the
Web Portal