

Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority
Board Action/Information Summary

☐ Action ☒ Information

MEAD Number:
202205

Resolution:
☐ Yes ☒ No

TITLE:

Community Policing and Engagement Update

PRESENTATION SUMMARY:

Present to the Board an update on the Metro Transit Police Department's (MTPD) community policing and engagement efforts.

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this presentation is to provide the Board an update on the MTPD's community policing and engagement efforts to include the Investigations Review Panel, newly created Internal Oversight and Youth Services Bureau (IOYSB), our partnership with the Fraternal Order of Police (FOP), and the #8CantWait Campaign.

DESCRIPTION:

The Metro Transit Police Department's (MTPD) is protecting and serving transit customers and employees by embracing modern policing through reforms that incorporate best practices in law enforcement and community outreach that fosters public trust.

Key Highlights:

The MTPD's community policing and engagement efforts in four key areas:

1. Investigations Review Panel
2. Internal Oversight and Youth Services Bureau (IOYSB)
3. Partnership with the Fraternal Order of Police (FOP)
4. #8CantWait Campaign

Background and History:

The MTPD has a history of proactive police reform and incorporates best practices in law enforcement. The MTPD acknowledges the current dialogue on policing and police reforms that is taking place around the country and recognizes the urgent need to further improve how MTPD provides public safety in the Metro Transit System and to continue to foster trust between MTPD and the public.

Discussion:

Metro's Board of Directors recently established the MTPD Investigations Review Panel, an independent advisory body that consists of seven members to review and submit

recommendations to the MTPD Chief of Police on changes to policing and training – all in an effort to improve the integrity of investigations, transparency, and thoroughness and fairness of the process; consistent with best practices in law enforcement. The Board is reviewing approximately 70 applications and conducting interviews.

Additionally, the MTPD created the IOYSB to oversee the MTPD's increased role with youth in the region, improve recruiting and screening of police applicants, and the department's strategic planning. Within the IOYSB, the MTPD created a Youth Services Unit to provide more specialization and consistency when engaging with young people in our system and local schools. Also, under the IOYSB is the Office of Strategic Planning, responsible for leading and managing the effort with a third party to update the department's Standard Operating Procedures, General Orders, and Procedures Manual.

The MTPD continues close collaboration with the FOP to focus on police reform through five committees: Officer Performance Evaluation; Fourth Amendment Stop and Frisk Training; Conflict Resolution De-escalation Training; Ethical Training and Peer Support; and Recruitment of Minorities. Chaired by MTPD Deputy Chiefs, the committees meet weekly or bi-weekly.

While the MTPD's current policies and procedures are already consistent with the #8CanWait campaign, the MTPD continues to explore efforts to improve community policing and engagement.

Next Steps:

The MTPD will implement eight to 10 hours of training over the course of several days for members of the MTPD Investigations Review Panel to provide an overview of the department, Collective Bargaining Agreement, Internal Affairs, and rail safety training.

The MTPD is also in the process of updating the external Transit Police website to include a Letter from the Chief of Police and to highlight the department's commitment to community policing and engagement. When complete, the updated policies will be posted to this site as well.

Additional steps include meeting with the Deputy Mayor of Education and School Chancellor, increasing transparency through a dedicated MTPD community engagement officer, and marketing of the email established to connect with the community - MTPD_bridgingthegap@wmata.com.

FUNDING IMPACT:

There is no impact on funding for presenting this update. Future directives may impact the operating budget.	
Project Manager:	Ronald A. Pavlik
Project Department/Office:	MTPD/COO

TIMELINE:

Not applicable.

Community Policing and Engagement Update



Ronald Pavlik
Chief of Police

September 24, 2020



Investigations Review Panel

Three Police Members

- Metropolitan Police Department
- Prince George's County Policy Department
- City of Alexandria Police Department

MTPD Liaison Official appointed to support the panel

Four Civilian Members



Community Engagement

Internal Oversight and Youth Services Bureau

- Youth Services Unit
 - New unit's primary focus is youth
 - Challenge w/virtual school
 - Opportunity to engage w/students
- Community engagement
 - Outreach events



Community Engagement (cont.)

Internal Oversight and Youth Services Bureau

- Oversight
 - Quality Management System Plan
- Update current policies
 - Lexipol onboard
- Community Oriented Policing Services/Department of Justice grant
 - International Association of Chiefs of Police



Partnership with Fraternal Order of Police (FOP)

Chairman FOP letter to General Manager/CEO

Each Committee is Chaired by a Deputy Chief and Co-Chaired by a member selected by the FOP

- Letter highlighted #8cantwait
- Five additional measures
 - 1) Performance evaluations for officers
 - 2) 'Stop and Frisk' training
 - 3) De-escalation training
 - 4) Ethical policing and peer support
 - 5) Retaining-Promoting-Recruitment

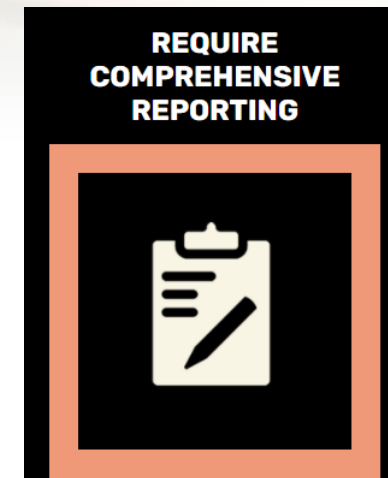


#8CantWait

A campaign to bring immediate change to police departments

MTPD has existing policies that:

- 1) Ban chokeholds
- 2) Exhaust all other reasonable means before shooting
- 3) Ban shooting at moving vehicles
- 4) Require a use of force continuum
- 5) Require comprehensive reporting



#8CantWait (cont.)

6) Duty to intervene:

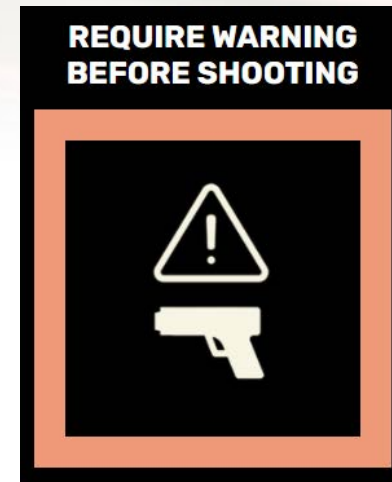
- Issued directive on June 3, 2020; directing officers to intervene and report

7) Require de-escalation training:

- Completed in basic training and annual refresher

8) Require a warning before shooting:

- MTPD trains to this but does not have a written policy



Next Steps

- Implement training for the members of the MTPD Investigations Review Panel
- Update the MTPD landing page
 - Recruitment initiatives
 - Post MTPD police practices and policies
- Meet with Deputy Mayor of Education and School Chancellor
- Increase transparency through a dedicated MTPD community engagement officer
- Market the email established to connect with the community
 - MTPD_bridgingthegap@wmata.com