Customer Service, Operations and Security Committee

Information Item IV-A

September 14, 2017

Semi-Annual Security Report

<p style="text-align:center">Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority</p>

Board Action/Information Summary

○ Action ● Information	MEAD Number: 201899	Resolution: ○ Yes ● No

TITLE:

Semi-Annual Security Report

PRESENTATION SUMMARY:

The Metro Transit Police Department (MTPD) semi-annual security report publicly communicates security-related information about the Metrorail and Metrobus systems.

PURPOSE:

The purpose of the MTPD security presentation is to provide members of the WMATA Board with information and analysis of crime events in the Metro system. Further, the public report increases communication to enhance security of our customers and the protection of Authority employees.

DESCRIPTION:

One of the key indicators of a safe and secure transit system is the number and types of crime reported over a period of time. Metro has established crime reduction as a major performance measure.

Key Highlights:

- Part I crime in the Metro System decreased by 17% for the first six months of 2017 compared to the first six months of 2016.
- Violent crimes, including robbery and aggravated assaults, decreased by 25%.
- Citations for fare evasion have more than doubled (114%) in comparison of the first six months 2017 vs. 2016.
- Part I crime on buses increased from 48 to 55 offenses for the first six months of 2017 compared to 2016.

Background and History:

Part I crime is the measure by which we gauge the overall performance of the MTPD in providing a safe and secure riding experience for Metro customers. Each reporting period, the MTPD provides crime statistics for incidents occurring in Metrorail, Metrobus, and facilities owned and operated by Metro. In general, when police departments discuss Part I crime statistics, they are referring to crimes including: Aggravated assault, Arson, Burglary, Homicide, Larceny, Motor vehicle thefts and attempts, Rape and Robbery.

Discussion:

Overall Part I crime was reduced by 17% in the Metro System when comparing January through June, 2017 to the same months in 2016. For rail stations and on trains, the Part I crime reduction had the most significant change at 31% less crimes. Bus stop crime was reduced by 25%, however Part I crime on buses increased by about 15%. From a five year perspective, overall Part I crime has been lowered by about 35%, again comparing the first six months of each year. The most common Part I crimes in the Metro System are crimes against property, which encompass various forms of theft. Thefts are categorized by either the object stolen (i.e., vehicles or bicycles) or the method used to steal (i.e., snatches or taking unattended property). Theft crimes were reduced by about 9%.

Snatches of property, primarily cell phones, were reduced by about 17% compared to 2016. Since 2010, snatches have been reduced by half. Over three-fourths of all theft snatches occur at rail stations in the downtown core area of the District of Columbia. Theft snatches most frequently happen in the work week during evening rush hours. Theft snatches became a major crime priority in metropolitan areas and received national media attention in the last few years. The crime is generally associated with cell phones and has gradually reduced over the years. Some reductions may be attributed to riders becoming more savvy about the crime and protective of their hand-held devices.

Bicycle thefts decreased from 124 in 2016 to 88 in 2017, a 29% reduction. This year, most bicycle thefts occurred at Red Line stations in Maryland, and several occurred at West Hyattsville and Prince George's Plaza Stations on the Green Line. Strategies to reduce bicycle thefts included targeted patrols and casual clothes officers conducting surveillance at key stations, crime prevention outreach events and bicycle u-lock giveaways to our biking customers. It is interesting to note that nearly all victims of bike theft reported using a lock, and most parked their bike in the morning and returned later the same day.

Thefts from autos showed a 10% increase (2016 – 90, 2017 – 99) in the first six months of 2017 compared to the same period in 2016. About two-thirds of all thefts from autos occurred at rail station parking lots in Prince George's County, Maryland. In 23 (23%) of the 99 cases of thefts from autos in 2017, the object stolen was a handicap placard. Thefts of autos (including attempts) were reduced from 29 in 2016 to 18 in 2017, a reduction of about 38%. The MTPD utilized casual clothes officers and Crime Suppression Unit officers to help reduce crime in parking lots, and in five of the 18 cases (28%) of vehicles stolen/attempted stolen, the case was closed with an arrest.

Violent crimes, including robbery and aggravated assaults decreased this year. There were no reports of rape or homicide on Metro property in the first six months of 2017 compared to 2016. Robbery, which includes three categories: Force & Violence, Armed and Fear, were reduced by 40 offenses, a 21% reduction. In approximately half of robbery cases, the suspect is a school aged male offender. Victims are predominantly school age to young adult. The most frequent item taken in a robbery is a cell phone, the second most prevalent object is cash. More robberies occur on Wednesdays and Thursday during late afternoon hours. About 60% of all robberies occur in rail stations and on trains with the top three reported stations as, Anacostia,

Congress Heights and L'Enfant Plaza.

Part I crimes on buses increased from 48 to 55 offenses for the first six months of 2017 compared to 2016. Robbery was the most prevalent Part I crime at 16 offenses, followed by aggravated assaults (11), and thefts (13.) Bus Part I crime trends much lower than rail crime (Rail 55% vs Bus 9%.) A discussion of crime on buses must include the incidence of bus operator assaults. Statistically, it is unlikely for a bus operator assault to be included in Part I crimes, however, MTPD considers all operator assaults to be serious because of the vulnerability of this employee population. In the first six months of 2017 compared to 2016, bus operator assaults increased by about 20% (2016 – 34, 2017 – 41.) The three predominant causes of operator assaults are: No known reason – 36%, Verbal altercation – 27% and Fare dispute – 23%. In the majority of assaults (80%), suspects throw objects, expectorate upon or utilize personal weapons (i.e., hit, push or kick.) Strategies to reduce bus operator assaults are high visibility and targeted patrols, fare evasion details, investigations of operator complaints, seminars for bus operators, MTPD attendance at bus division safety meetings and department-wide efforts including High Intensity Targeted Enforcement (HITE) and Safe Watch.

This year MTPD worked in collaboration with several Metro departments to reduce fare evasion in both rail and bus. Officers increased visibility at rail station entrances near kiosks and stepped up enforcement of fare evasion offenses. MTPD actions are in direct support of the systemwide initiative called FairShare, to further reduce the amount of fare evasion in the rail system. On buses, MTPD worked with bus operations to target specific bus routes and times of day for fare evasions. In the first six months of 2017, MTPD issued 6,961 citations for fare evasion, doubling the number of citations issued in 2016 for the same period of time. MTPD officers also recorded 780 arrests for fare evasion which accounted for 52% of all arrests in the Metro System. -

FUNDING IMPACT:

The core mission of the Metro Transit Police Department is safety and security in the Metrorail and Metrobus systems. MTPD primarily utilizes operational budget funding to support the core mission.

Project Manager:	Ronald A. Pavlik, Jr., Chief of Police
Project Department/Office:	Metro Transit Police Department

TIMELINE:

Previous Actions	January - June, 2017 – MTPD utilizes various strategies and tactics to prevent crime and enforce jurisdictional code and WMATA regulations. January - June, 2017 - MTPD collaborated with Bus and Rail to reduce fare evasion. January - June, 2017 - Established a Crime Suppression Unit to target violent crime in the Metro system.

Anticipated actions after presentation	2017 - Continue successful strategies for the reduction of crime.
	2017 - Prepare for back to school events via Respect Your Ride.

Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority

Security Report:
January – June 2017

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17% Reduction

Crime Against Property

Crimes Against Property	Type	Jan-Jun 2016	Jan-Jun 2017
Larceny/Theft	Snatch	111	103
	Pickpocket	41	23
	From Auto	90	99
	Bicycle	124	88
	Other	95	115
Auto Theft/Attempts		29	18
Burglary		2	0
Arson		1	0

Property Crime Reduction 9.5% — Bicycle Thefts Down 29%

Six-Month Fare Enforcement Results

- Generated 6,961 fare evasion citations/summonses

- Issued 2,130 written warnings

- Arrested 780 individuals
  - About 42% resulted in additional offenses charged:
    - Open warrants (116)
    - Assault on police (64)
    - Fugitive from justice (39)

- Enforcement locations: approximately 65% rail stations, 35% bus

Fare evasion citations increased by 114%

Crime Against Persons

Crimes Against Persons	Type	Jan-Jun 2016	Jan-Jun 2017
Robbery	Force & Violence	122	94
	Armed	57	45
	Fear	8	8
Aggravated Assault		73	52
Rape		3	0
Homicide		*3	0

*Homicides are reported and investigated by other police agencies.
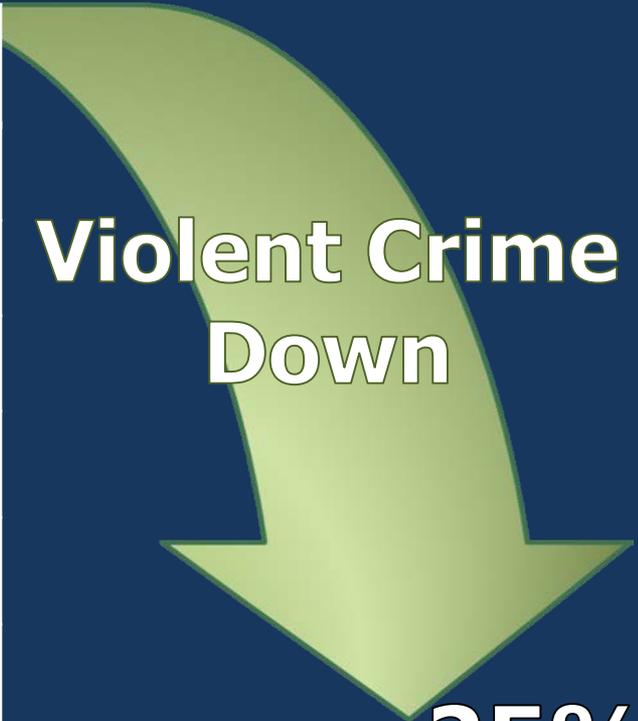
Violent Crime Down

25%

Bus Operator Assaults

Strategies to improve bus safety and security:

- Metrobus Enforcement Division targeted deployments

- High Intensity Targeted Enforcement (HITEs)

- Bus division safety meetings

- Conflict resolution training

- Bus in MetroStat meetings

- Overtime to reduce fare evasion

- Continuation of Respect Your Ride youth campaign

Bus operator assaults increased about 20%

Sexual Harassment Complaints

Classification	2016	2017
Criminal	16	11
Criminal Non-Sexual	5	16
Harassment	16	34
YTD Total	37	61

65% ↑

IT'S NOT OK

REPORT SEXUAL HARASSMENT ON METRO