

Metro Transit Police



From the desk of the Chief



On behalf
of the
Metro
Transit
Police, I
welcome
you to
the first

issue of our newsletter. Each quarter, it will be our goal to share information on what we are doing to improve security for King County's mass transit system.

The Metro Transit Police are responsible for providing enhanced law enforcement for the customers and employees of King County Metro Transit and Sound Transit in King County. It is our intent to provide the safest and most secure

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Updated law governs conduct on transit property

State law regarding conduct on buses is expanding this month to cover other transit vehicles, including trains, ferries, trolleys, and streetcars, as well as transit stations and waiting areas. Senate Bill 5513 (Unlawful Public Transit Conduct), introduced by Sen. Fred Jarrett, D-Mercer Island, was signed by Governor Christine Gregoire in April and went into effect July 26.

As the former chair of the Washington State Transit Association's (WSTA) Transit Security Council, Metro Transit Police Chief **Dave Jutilla** worked tirelessly with his regional transit partners to get the bill passed. Throughout 2008, Jutilla and his council partners, Chief Rod Baker of the Pierce Transit Police and Chief Ron Griffin of the Sound Transit Police, prepared bill language and provided testimony before the House and Senate.

"I can sincerely say that this bill was truly a team effort," Jutilla said. "Our collaborative efforts with transit agencies and law enforcement throughout the state made it possible."

The WSTA Transit Security Council meets every other month to review transit security information in an effort to advise Washington state agencies about training opportunities and the standardization of report procedures, codes of conduct, security plans, crime-reduction methods, and police/judicial cooperation.

ABOVE: Governor Christine Gregoire signs the new bill regulating conduct on public transit. Ron Griffin, chief of Sound Transit Police, stands second from left, and Dave Jutilla, chief of Metro Transit Police, stands second from right.

environment possible for Metro employees and customers, and we use all of the tools at our disposal to realize this goal. These tools include working in cooperation with our transportation community and local leadership, and fostering relationships with Metro employees so we can best solve the problems that they encounter.

Our transit police force is made up of highly trained deputies from the King County Sheriff's Office who are selected to focus on our important mission of transit policing. They strive to serve each and every day with leadership, integrity, and teamwork.

Sincerely,

Dave Jutilla
Chief of Police Services
Metro Transit Police
Major, King County
Sheriff's Office

Meet our operations staff

By Lisa Mulligan, Operations Captain



Lisa Mulligan,
Operations Captain

The Metro Transit Police Operations Section is made up of two units: the Patrol Unit and the Bicycle Emphasis and Enforcement Squad (also known as the BEES). As Operations Captain, I oversee both of these units.

The Patrol Unit has eight sergeants and 30 patrol deputies who work in four overlapping shifts to cover a 24-hour day. Between 4 a.m. and 11 p.m., we keep at least four patrol deputies working in Seattle's central business district, where the most buses converge. This is also where we see the most crime and other issues for us to address on behalf of Metro customers and employees.

When enough deputies are available, we also cover the Rainier Valley/Beacon Hill, North Seattle, and South King County areas. Our patrol deputies respond to calls for service on buses and at Metro's bus stops, transit centers, and park-and-rides. They also patrol bus routes and stops, watching for and addressing illegal or unruly behavior. They have the power to enforce Metro's Code of Conduct and to suspend the riding privileges of persons who have committed crimes.

From the ranks of our Patrol Unit, 10 deputies have been selected to serve with two sergeants on the bike squad, which is divided into two shifts to cover weekdays from 5 a.m. to 9 p.m. Most of the time, BEES officers ride bikes as they respond to calls for service in and around downtown Seattle and its transit tunnel. They also have marked patrol cars available for use if needed, but their bikes offer stealth and speed while negotiating commuter traffic and other city obstacles.

Often they can ride up to developing problems or crimes in progress without being noticed, which makes them very effective at addressing crime, and their visible presence helps address fear of crime in the areas they patrol.

In addition to their regular downtown patrols, the BEES participate in special emphasis patrols in other locations around King County as needed. Because they frequently pose for snapshots with visiting tourists, bike squad officers are probably the most photographed in the King County Sheriff's Office.



Meet the Patrol Unit's day shift team. Back row, left to right: deputies Kevin Davis, Josh Fowler, Tim Sigel, and Mark Christianson, Sergeant Lonnie Arnold, and Deputy Reggie Thomas. Front row: deputies Brian Barnes, Steve Gowin, Jason Escobar, and Jeff Dixon, Sergeant Bill Hurley, Deputy Tim Morgan, and bomb dog "Stevie."

Five Metro Transit Police officers assisted with security for the inauguration in Washington, D.C. Pictured from left are: Deputy Scott Dery, Sergeant Barb Etienne, and deputies Paul Schwenn, Chris Adams, and Pat McCurdy.

Metro Transit Police help out during inauguration



As Washington, D.C., transit agencies began planning for the Jan. 20 inauguration of President Obama, they expected hundreds of thousands of visitors in the nation's capital—and they knew they would need help managing those crowds. So, with costs paid by federal funds, about 4,000 officers from around the country traveled to D.C. to help police the inauguration events and parade, and about 400 commissioned transit officers joined the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority's (WMATA) effort to keep things secure in the "other Washington's" Metro train stations.

Among them were five officers from King County's Metro Transit Police.

Sergeant Barb Etienne, one of those who traveled to D.C., said all of the visiting officers had to be temporarily sworn in so they could enforce laws in that jurisdiction. Each then received a special badge and several hours of training. Then the entire Metro Transit Police delegation was assigned to work in the Capitol South Station alongside the regular WMATA officers.

"Our main goal was crowd control on the platform area of the train station," Etienne said, noting that "there were times when the crowds got large." However, there

were no arrests or major incidents, even though the day's total of more than 1.5 million bus and train trips set a record for the WMATA. "I know the WMATA really appreciated our efforts in helping everything go off smoothly," Etienne said.

With the world watching, said **Deputy Paul Schwenn**, another member of the Metro Transit Police delegation, "it was an enormous responsibility for all those involved to see this day be marked in history for the reasons intended and not to allow anything to detract from that."

Etienne said the Metro Transit Police officers, who are King County Sheriff deputies, also made time to visit the Law Enforcement Memorial while they were in D.C.

"All of us knew of at least one King County Sheriff's Office deputy who had died in the line of duty and therefore had their name included on the memorial wall. Unfortunately, some of us knew several of the names on the wall. I was moved to see it in person," she said.



Ride safe


See something...

Be aware of suspicious or unusual activity on buses and at bus stops; unattended bags, packages, etc.; smoke or odd smells.

Say something...

If you see someone leave a package, politely bring it to their attention. If you see an unattended package, stay away from it—and tell your driver immediately. If you see someone acting suspiciously, or witness anything unusual, tell your driver.

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Bike squad deputies pose with their new friends from Uganda. Pictured left to right are deputies Gabe Morris, Patrick McCurdy, Scott Dery, Bill Kennamer, and Chris Caven. Not pictured is Deputy Tony Black.

Bicycle squad connects with visiting singers

While patrolling the area around Westlake Park in downtown Seattle last month, six members of the Metro Transit Police's Bicycle Emphasis and Enforcement Squad (BEES) noticed a group of children dressed in colorful costumes singing on the stage. They recognized the performers as the Watoto Children's Choir, a church-affiliated touring group from Uganda.

The officers enjoyed the concert while working at the park, and afterward introduced themselves to the visiting performers. One 11-year old singer told Deputy Patrick McCurdy that he wants to be a police officer in Uganda when he grows up, and McCurdy gave his future professional counterpart a ride on his patrol bike.

