



MILWAUKEE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Supervisor Peter Burgelis - District 15

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Tuesday, May 2, 2023

Contact: Eddie Cullen, 414-793-0347

Milwaukee County Transit Safety and Security Task Force Announces Three Upcoming Public Hearings

MILWAUKEE – The Milwaukee County Transit System (MCTS) Safety and Security Task Force announced three upcoming public hearings to be held in May and June. These public hearings will provide an opportunity for individuals to share their thoughts, opinions, and concerns about the safety and security of the bus system in Milwaukee County.

The following public hearings have been scheduled:

1. May 3rd from 4 pm - 6 pm at the International Learning Center, 639 N 25th St, Milwaukee, WI 53233
2. May 15th from 11 am - 1 pm at Kosciuszko Community Center, 2207 S 7th St, Milwaukee, WI 53215
3. June 8th from 1 pm - 3 pm at Brown Deer Park Boathouse, 7835 N Green Bay Ave, Milwaukee, WI 53209

County Board Supervisor Peter Burgelis, Co-Chair of the Task Force made the following statement:

“We encourage anyone who uses or is impacted by the bus system in Milwaukee County to attend these public hearings and share their thoughts and concerns,” said Supervisor Burgelis *“Our goal is to make evidence-based policy recommendations that will make the system safer and more secure for everyone.”*

Recommendations from the Task Force will be sent to the Milwaukee County Board and County Executive this summer.

Public comment is welcome at all Task Force meetings.

For more information about the Transit Safety and Security Task Force and the upcoming public hearings, contact Supervisor Burgelis at (414) 278-4255.

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1. MCSO finds it very useful as it captures a lot of events
2. Over 300 requests for video footage during 2022

7. Communication from City of Milwaukee Office of Violence Prevention

- a. Not present, no report

8. Communication from Milwaukee County Office of Equity

- a. Not present, no report
- b.

9. Communication from Milwaukee County Housing

- a. Director James Matthey
- b. Review report
- c. Open comments from Public:
 - i. Supervisor Juan Miguel Martinez
 1. Advocated for the Transit Task Force
 - a. Will ensure there are actions taken on this Task Force to help keep Bus Operators safe
 2. Labor organizer for years
 - ii. Airport & UMW Unhoused Issues
 1. Housing works weekly with MCSO and the Airport
 2. Increased service to Airport to reduce unhoused issues
- d. Discussion:
 - i. Allied Security
 1. Is there a direct relationship with them?
 - a. Not aware of any; open to one.
 - ii. Need to quantify issues to best allocate appropriate resources:
 1. Un-housed, Mental health issues, Addiction issues
 - iii. Additional training for Bus Operators
 1. Help educate on how to communicate with the homeless people
 2. Partnership with Milwaukee County Housing and MCTS
 - iv. Park Rangers
 1. Park Ranger interactions, approach, and overall appearance are stronger than Allied.
 2. Public appears to respect the Rangers more than Allied
 - v. DHS on buses
 1. Airing ad on buses soon
 2. Resources provided to Allied by MCTS Security Coordinator- are they being used?
 - vi. Wackenhut Security Company
 1. This was one of the best security companies in the past
 2. They were purchased by Allied Universal
 3. Most of the private security companies have now gone hands-off, cannot physically remove individuals, due to lawsuits.
 4. Not aware if there are any other private security officers out there that will physically remove individuals.

- vii. Park Ranger
 - 1. Do they perform escort holds? No, the Rangers deescalate and remove self from situation due to having space available.
 - 2. Training: Detain as a citizen but not as a Ranger
 - 3. 18-21 year olds have started as the Park Ranger to get experience – 10-15 hours per week
 - a. Either hire if openings or they move onto other security fields: MPD or Private Security companies.
- e. Action Items:
 - i. Milwaukee County Department of Housing to reach out to Allied before next Security Task Force meeting to develop relationship.
 - ii. MCTS SST Director will provide HR hiring and exit interview data for the next meeting.

10. Other Items

- a. Allied Vehicles
 - i. Some now display “Transit Security.” It’s part of the contract that the permanent vehicles are marked as “Transit Security”
- b. Closing
 - i. Task force will work to ensure there is resolution and thanked everyone for their time and testimonials

11. Meeting Calendar Proposal

- a. Public Hearings April / May / June: Saturday morning, Mid-week day, Mid-week eve
- b. Varied locations through Milwaukee County
- c. Circulate dates, times and locations which will be an addendum to next meeting.

12. Adjournment at 1:00pm

Note: Next meeting will be Wednesday May 3, 2023 4pm -6pm at Neighborhood House International Learning Center, Central United Methodist Church (639 N 25th St, Milwaukee, WI 53233); Lower Level



Meeting Agenda

Milwaukee County Transit System Safety and Security Task Force

*Co-Chairperson Supervisor Peter Burgelis
Co-Chairperson Supervisor Ryan Clancy
Brian Kading, MCTS Director of Safety, Security & Training
Michael Brown, ATU Local 998 Vice President
Todd Pisarski, Milwaukee County Parks Safety, Security, & Training Manager*

*Coordinators: Julie Schuetz-Esch, MCDOT Deputy Director
Jennifer Ortega, MCTS Training Manager
James Halverson, County Board Legislative Assistant*

Wednesday, May 3, 2023

4:00 PM

International Learning Center
639 N 25th Street
Milwaukee, WI 53233

1. Call to Order, Roll Call
2. Approval of Previous Minutes (March 24, 2023)
3. Review of Task Force's Purpose
4. Member Updates
5. Departmental Updates
6. Public Comment
7. Discussion of Proposed Task Force Recommendations
8. Meeting Calendar Proposal
 - i. Public Hearing: May 15th from 11am-1pm at Kosciuszko Community Center, 2207 S 7th St, Milwaukee, WI 53215
 - ii. Public Hearing: June 8th from 1pm-3pm at Brown Deer Park Boathouse, 7835 N Green Bay Ave, Milwaukee, WI 53209
 - iii. Recommendations: Late June
 - iv. Final Recommendations: Early July
9. Adjournment