

Hello,

I've registered to speak later today (hopefully will be able to depending on my work schedule), but want to provide some written comment regarding the agenda item: 60909 Using Metro to Transport National Guard. Because this appears merely to be a discussion, I cannot support or oppose it, though I certainly oppose the way that Metro Transit was used to transport the national guard and riot police to downtown madison during Black Lives Matter protests. It's my understanding that this was done due to the mayor's declared State of Emergency and corresponding curfew (as detailed in [Section 3.19](#) of the Code of Ordinances), which enabled the mayor to call upon an ordinance for Metro Transit to use of Metro Transit to transport the National Guard under the "State of emergency" (according to [Section 3.20](#)).

What's striking looking at Section 3.20 is that it clearly defines what an "emergency" is and lays out different circumstances under which this ordinance applies in detail, *except for* "state of emergency" which is only detailed in Section 3.19. Unlike 3.20, 3.19 also includes "riot or civil commotion" as well as "acts of God". This leave a convenient and troubling loophole wherein our public busses can be used to suppress any form of free speech and assembly which is considered a "riot" or "commotion" (or perhaps even an "act of God"). Unlike how 3.20 defines the different types of emergencies, 3.19 does not define what the terms "riot" or "commotion" mean.

In any case, the use of Metro Transit during the Black Lives Matter protests to bring in riot police is NOT in alignment with the intention behind supporting the coordination of efforts in the city in response to an "emergency".

I've been riding Madison's busses since I was a child. I took them to school and to get around town as a teen. As an adult, I have taken them to get to work each day before the pandemic struck, as I don't have a car. I love that we have public transit, and see a huge opportunity for us to expand public transit in this city (especially if we defund the police).

It is a complete betrayal that our buses have been used to bring police brutality into the community, during a pandemic. These buses are here to serve the public, not carry weapons and tear gas to poison children in our communities. An update to the 3.20 ordinance excluding "riot" or "commotions" to make sure buses are not used to suppress free speech is a bare minimum ask; although I will have to defer on the expertise of the alders and the committee. It really shouldn't be radical to make sure our public services are not used against the public.

Thanks,

~Mia Robidoux

Resident at the Zip Code 53703, living a block away from State St & the Square