

E-MAIL CORRESPONDENCE FROM JOHN DAVIS, FREQUENT METRO BUS RIDER
RE: VIOLENCE & MADISON METRO BUS

From: Mayor
Sent: Thursday, March 09, 2006 12:26 PM
To: 'john davis'
Cc: Catherine Debo
Subject: RE: Re: Violence and Madison Metro Bus

Thank you for contacting me regarding issues on Madison buses. I'm pleased to be able to report that you will be seeing action soon. Metro went out to bid in January for security cameras on buses, and we anticipate Common Council approval of the award of contract will take place this month. Installation on the buses will occur this summer. Vendors have submitted preliminary bids for installation of cameras at the South Transfer Point and will be meeting soon to demonstrate their proposed wares. Vendors will also be submitting a best and final offer at the end of the month for the South Transfer Point, with an option for the West Transfer Point as well.

Metro Transit, the Madison Police Department, and I take the issue of maintaining a secure environment on the buses and at the transfer points seriously. Metro has developed a security plan for maintaining a secure environment on the bus. The plan addresses staff responsibilities; bus operator and supervisory training; coordination with local governments and agencies; adoption of a formal policy on inappropriate behavior and transit exclusion; and communication with customers. Camera surveillance is just one element of the plan.

Again, I sincerely appreciate hearing from you. Please continue to keep me updated when you see problems at the transfer points and on the buses.

Dave

From: john davis [mailto:john.davis-2@hotmail.com]
Sent: Monday, February 27, 2006 8:06 PM
To: Mayor General Mailbox
Subject: FW: Re: Violence and Madison Metro Bus

Dear Mayor:

When I am going to see some actual action to prevent the violence on the Metro buses?

I am very tired of the lies from Madison Metro and MPD regarding this issue. Many people on my route have shared correspondence on this issue. Some passengers contacted your office at the beginning of your term but nothing was done to address the issue.

I will be awaiting your reply.

From: "Noel Radomski" <NRadomski@cityofmadison.com>

To: <john.davis-2@hotmail.com>

Subject: *Re: Violence and Madison Metro Bus*

Date: *Mon, 20 Feb 2006 13:59:00 -0600*

John:

I will forward your original email to the Transit & Parking Commission (TPC) staff and ask her to send it to all TPC members.

Also, this weekend another Alder forwarded your email to MPD Chief Nobel Wray and this morning Chief Wray asked West Precinct Captain Davenport to investigate the West Transfer problems cited in your email.

Yesterday I also forwarded your email to Catherine Debo, Director, Madison Metro and this morning she responded that she will be working with MPD to address your questions.

I believe we're about to change Madison policy that will finally allow us to put real cameras in select buses and transfer points so we can capture the illegal activities and use it not only as evidence in court, but also in information to arrest the perps. Up to this point the Alders would say cameras were a violation of our civil liberties and if incidents took place so be it, more or less.

Thank you.

Noel

Noel Radomski
Aldersperson, District 19
City of Madison
(608) 236-0892
district19@cityofmadison.com

>>> john davis 02/20/06 1:31 PM >>>

Please forward my original email to all members of the Parking Commission. What is the email addresses for the commission?

The outsourcing of security needs to be actual officers such as Dane County Deputies. More importantly, they are allowed to film the bad behavior. Private security is a low paying job and sometimes involves staff from very troubled neighborhoods. If these security staff take action, they will receive retribution. More importantly licensed police officer have the training and protection to deal with the situation. The City could ask retired officers to ride the buses and gather data. Some retired officers are donating their time to find registered sex offenders which have not kept their addresses up-to-date.

Actually the MPD staffing needs to be reveiwed. The deployment of officers needs to be based on the time and location of criminal activity. For instance, the Central District receives more staffing than the West District. Staffing means officers on patrol and able to respond to calls not the one sitting behind the desk. Example, there were 3 officers on foot patrol on State Street around 2:00 pm on Sunday. This is not a high call time therefore, the officers should have been deployed to other areas especially, in the traffic area.

Note the West side has 5 officers on day shift, 9 officers on 3-11 shift, and 5 officers for 11pm to 7:00 am. That is why you have the problems on the West side and calls for service are given a very low priority.

In the future, in your travels around the City, observe what City employees are doing, especially, MPD. You will get a surprise at the inefficiency of the dept. Watch where the officers hang out when they suppose to be on patrol. You'll get another surprise!!!

>>> john davis Saturday, February 18, 2006 2:59:31 PM >>>

I have to use the Madison Metro bus system 7 days a week to go shopping and to work. It is now at the point that it is extremely unsafe on the bus as well as at the bus transfer points. In the last month, I have witneessed several incidents of major fights on the bus and at the transfer points. As male I can honestly say that I am afraid for my life! I can just about imagine the terror felt by most female users of the system.

Last Wednesday, I just completed shopping at Westgate. I was going to take

the 7:00 pm bus home from the West Transfer Point only to see a major fight involving 20 teenagers (male and female). One black male was laying on the inbound driveway area with no shirt. His attackers had ripped off his clothes and continued to kick his bare chest while he was laying on the ground. Other kids were also being beaten by the "pack of hoodlums."

There were 3 outbound and 2 inbound buses in the transfer point at the time of the fight. The drivers just stood there and laughed (typical behavior of the male drivers, I am sad to say).

I do not have a cell phone to call the police and the pay phone at the transfer point is always in the "fight zone." You cannot hear anything on the phone because of the noise from the bus motors... the phone is totally useless.

As usual the Police arrived after the fight and did not make any attempt to arrest the criminals. Madison Metro drivers "aided and abetted" the criminals

by leaving with a pack of them on the Route 60 Middleton bus. The Police could have stopped the buses from leaving and removed the kids. The Police did not question the drivers. There is a very serious performance problem with the Madison Police Dept.

I have been told many times by Madison Metro, Dick Buss, Catherine Debo and Anne Gullickson, that it is not their responsibility to maintain a safe bus riding experience. It is always someone else's job!

I have spoken to Metro management, Metro drivers, and passengers and this is what I always hear.

1. Madison Metro say it is not their job but the Police's
2. Madison Police say it is not their job but Madison Metro's (as assistant chief, Noble Wray made this statement along with other officers)
3. Metro management does not care!!!!

It appears that the Mayor and the City Council allow this type of behavior to continue. If it is not their job, why are you authorizing the payment of any salaries (very high salaries) to the Police and Madison Metro?