

Committed to Excellence

From Police Chief Ernest Morales III

I am honored to be sworn in as the ninth Chief Law Enforcement Officer of the Metro Transit Police Department. With that said, I am excited to get to work building upon the past successes implemented by Metro Transit and the Metropolitan Council to date.

We will continue to develop long-term, pragmatic solutions with our county and city partners to address homelessness, chemical addiction, and mental illness. We will also work with our local prosecutors to hold people accountable for their criminal behavior.

We understand the current challenges transit systems throughout the country are facing and are committed to working with our stakeholders, community partners, and other law enforcement agencies within the state to provide the required service expected within Metro Transit.

Providing a safe commute for our customers will always remain our top priority. Our Police Officers are committed to serving the members of our communities with empathy, professionalism, and respect.

As one of the premier agencies within the state of Minnesota, I will lead from the front as I guide members of the Metro Transit Police Department forward, following the principles of 21st Century Policing:

1. Building Trust and Legitimacy
2. Policy and Oversight
3. Technology and Social Media
4. Community Policing and Crime Reduction
5. Training and Education
6. Officer Wellness and Safety

Welcoming the best and brightest individuals into the profession of law enforcement continues to be a challenge. We will, however, continue to recruit the correct individuals for the position of Police Officer within our agency understanding we are a public service agency with a focus on customer service.

Currently, we operate a Real Time Information Center seven days a week with a group of dedicated staff members comprised of civilians and police officers who monitor our routes along light rail and bus rapid transit stations, guiding our officers to calls for service in an expedient manner. Our team of investigators follow up on open cases leading to effective arrests and prosecutions.

We will deploy our personnel at critical locations throughout the system, protecting our critical infrastructure and assets, and clearing our property using our K-9 detection dogs.

We will never criminalize homelessness or individuals suffering from chemical dependency and will continue to deploy our Homeless Action Team throughout the Metro Transit service area providing much needed assistance in a holistic manner while enforcing our Code of Conduct.

"I am committed to leading this department to its brightest chapter yet."

