



Chief, Metro Transit Police Department Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority

The Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority is seeking a safety and security administration leader to serve as Chief of the Metro Transit Police Department.

About WMATA

The Washington Metropolitan Area Transportation Authority (WMATA) – also known as Metro – is a public transit agency that operates transit services in the Washington metropolitan area across the jurisdictions of Maryland, Virginia, and the District of Columbia. The authority provides rail transit, fixed-route bus service, and paratransit service.

Metro is managed by a General Manager and Chief Executive Officer and a 12-member leadership team. The Metro Board of Directors – representing the District of Columbia, the State of Maryland, the Commonwealth of Virginia, and the federal government – provides strategic leadership, policy guidance, and oversight for the region's public transit system.

Among Metro's many initiatives to enhance the customer experience are safety programs that focus on Crisis Intervention for people who may be in crisis and need resource assistance; Video Surveillance using more than 30,000 cameras to monitor Metro assets and people; Narcan deployment to support individuals who are experiencing a health crisis; 24-hour safety and security text and dispatch response for customers who need to report a crime or incident.

Metro by the Numbers

264 million Number of passenger trips in 2025

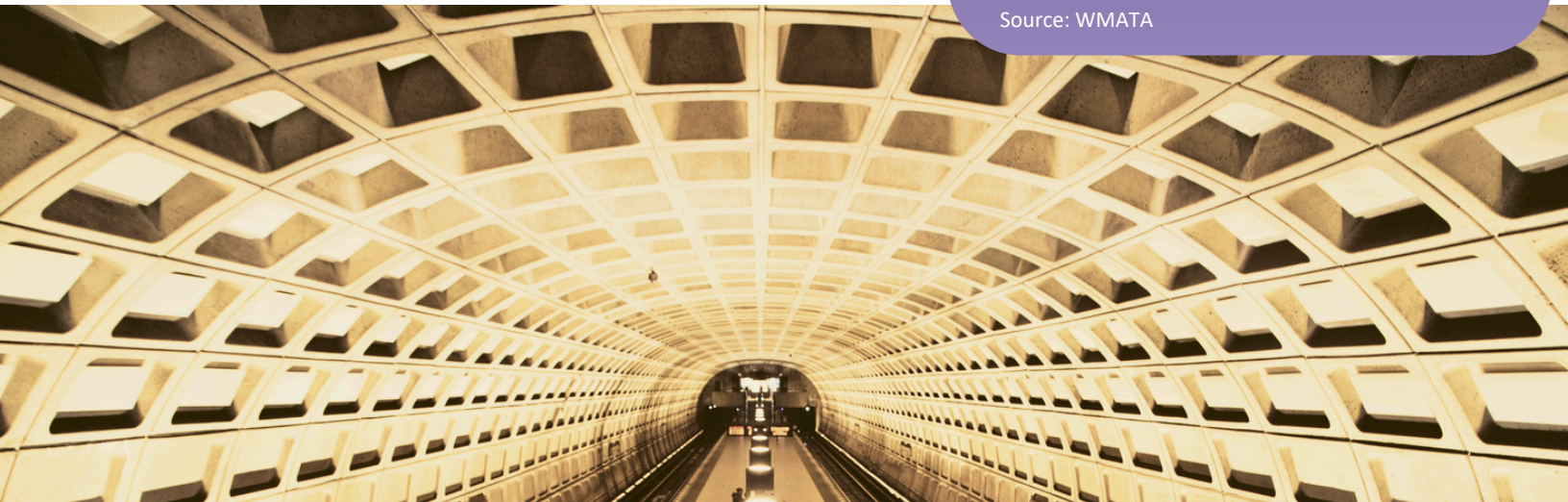
2.8 million People living within a half-mile of Metro stations and bus stops

\$4.8 billion Metro's 2027 budget

2,054 Square miles in Metro's transit zone

~471 Sworn Metro Transit Police Officers

Source: WMATA



About the Metro Transit Police Department

Congress established the Metro Transit Police Department (MTPD) in 1976. MTPD police officers have jurisdiction and arrest powers throughout the 2,054-square-mile transit zone that includes Maryland, Virginia, and the District of Columbia for crimes that occur in or against Transit Authority facilities. It is the only tri-jurisdictional police agency in the country and serves a population of 3.2 million.

Safety and Security. Metro has the lowest crime rate in history and leads the nation in case closure rates that are above the national average. In the interest of transparency, the public has access to the Metro Transit Police **daily blotter**, which shows the time and location of arrests, reports, and citations for a specified 24-hour period.

Community Engagement. MTPD protects and serves transit customers and employees by embracing modern policing through technology that incorporates best practices in law enforcement and community outreach to foster public trust. Among MTPD's engagement programs is the Youth Services Unit, which works directly with school administrators and students to develop early intervention programs and educate participants on the Respect Your Ride campaign; Metro's Community Services Bureau Division, which supports multi-week community engagement initiatives at Metro properties across the region; and the Community Police Academy, which helps members of the community gain a better understanding of MTPD policing and initiatives.

Oversight. The Investigative Review Panel (IRP) is an independent advisory board that helps maintain the integrity of MTPD's governance. IRP reviews internal and external investigations of the department's work and helps the department improve its procedures over time.



About the Chief of the Metro Transit Police Department

The Chief of the Metro Transit Police Department plans and directs the development and implementation of the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) police and security programs, leading the organization and facilitating coordination with other law enforcement agencies in the Washington Metropolitan Area to implement a coordinated and integrated law enforcement system. The Chief also serves as a trusted advisor to the General Manager/CEO, Board of Directors, and executive leadership team, providing leadership in public safety, security, emergency preparedness, and risk management across WMATA's tri-jurisdictional transit system.

In alignment with the responsibilities of the position, the MTPD Chief:

Strategic Leadership

- Provides executive leadership for all police, security, and public safety operations to protect WMATA customers, employees, and assets.
- Establishes strategic priorities, policies, and operational plans to advance system safety, security, and organizational resilience.
- Directs the analysis of emerging threats, critical incidents, and complex security challenges, ensuring effective contingency planning and response.

External Relations

- Serves as WMATA's principal law enforcement and security advisor and representative with governmental, regulatory, and public stakeholders.
- Builds and maintains strategic partnerships with local, state, and federal law enforcement, prosecutors, regulatory agencies, and transportation security organizations.

Executive Advisory

- Advises WMATA General Manager/CEO, Board of Directors, and executive leadership on police; security; public safety strategy, risk, and policy; and legislative, regulatory, and intergovernmental strategies related to public safety.
- Oversees the preparation and presentation of reports, recommendations, and briefings to the Board, regulatory agencies, and other governing bodies.

Organizational Leadership & Administration

- Directs departmental planning, budgeting, performance management, and resource allocation to achieve strategic objectives.
- Provides executive leadership for workforce management, including labor relations, personnel actions, and organizational development in accordance with applicable policies and collective bargaining agreements.

Executive Candidate Profile

The Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority seeks a visionary, collaborative, and results-oriented public safety executive to lead one of the nation's most complex and visible transit police organizations. The successful candidate will be an accomplished law enforcement leader with a demonstrated record of operational excellence, strategic leadership, community engagement, and organizational transformation.

Ideal Experience

The ideal candidate will possess:

- Significant progressively responsible command-level experience within a municipal, transit, state, federal, or other large public safety organization.
- Demonstrated experience leading complex, multi-jurisdictional law enforcement operations and collaborating with local, state, federal, and regional partners.
- Experience developing and executing strategic initiatives that enhance public safety, reduce crime, strengthen organizational effectiveness, and build public trust.
- Success managing large operating budgets, workforce planning initiatives, and organizational resources in a highly visible environment.
- Experience leading through change, implementing modern policing practices, and building a culture of accountability, professionalism, and continuous improvement.
- Demonstrated success working effectively with governing boards, elected officials, executive leadership teams, labor organizations, and community stakeholders.
- Experience managing critical incidents, emergency preparedness programs, homeland security initiatives, and major special events.
- Experience in organizational interoperability and the interplay of laws, statutes, and regulations within a multi-jurisdictional agency.

Education and Professional Credentials

A bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university is required. An advanced degree in criminal justice, public administration, business administration, homeland security, or a related field is preferred. Executive leadership training through organizations such as the FBI National Academy, Northwestern School of Police Staff and Command, the Senior Management Institute for Police, or comparable executive development programs is highly desirable.

Executive Candidate Profile (cont.)

Leadership Attributes

The successful candidate will be:

- A strategic thinker capable of balancing operational demands with long-term organizational priorities.
- A visible and accessible leader who inspires confidence among employees, customers, community members, and partner agencies.
- A skilled communicator who can effectively engage diverse stakeholders and serve as the public face of the department.
- A collaborative executive who values transparency, accountability, and cross-functional partnership.
- A decisive leader who thrives in complex, highly regulated, and politically sensitive environments.
- A champion of employee development, succession planning, workforce engagement, and leadership excellence.
- A principled professional who demonstrates integrity, sound judgment, and an unwavering commitment to public service.

The next Chief of the Metro Transit Police Department will have the opportunity to shape the future of public safety for one of the nation's premier transit agencies. As WMATA continues to advance customer experience, employee engagement, operational excellence, and strategic transformation, the Chief will play a critical role in fostering a safe, secure, and welcoming transit environment for customers, employees, and the communities Metro serves.

To Apply

The Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority is partnering with **POLIHIRE** to recruit the Chief of the Metro Transit Police Department. To be considered for this position, please attach 2 PDFs – a letter of interest and your resume – in an email to **MTPD_Chief@polihire.com**. Please include only your name (Last, First) in the subject line.