



The City of San Diego
OFFICE OF THE CITY COUNCIL

March 3, 2016

Paul Jablonski, CEO
Metropolitan Transit System
1255 Imperial Avenue
San Diego, CA 92101

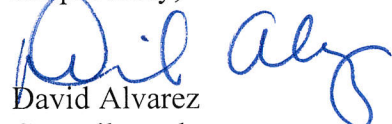
RE: Payment Processing System


Dear Mr. Jablonski:

We have been made aware that Metropolitan Transit System's (MTS) payment processing system does not comply with the Payment Card Industry Data Security Standard (PCI DSS), best practices recognized by major credit card companies that prevent and protect against fraud. The public should not have to question whether their local government and agencies are doing everything possible to protect their financial and personal information when accepting payment for services. By not complying with the PCI DSS, the financial data of MTS transit riders who pay with credit or debit cards are at risk. Placing members of the public who utilize MTS public transit at such risk is unacceptable and needs to be remedied as soon as possible. As such, MTS should immediately upgrade its payment processing system to ensure PCI DSS compliance, and the data security of its customers. Every day that goes by without an upgrade, MTS puts more of its customers at risk, as well as risking fines from financial institutions that process transactions.

Additionally, MTS should use this opportunity to simultaneously upgrade its Compass Card system to implement the long-delayed stored-value functionality, which is commonplace for transit systems in most other large metropolitan areas. Addressing these problems in a swift and decisive manner is critical in demonstrating to the public that San Diego's public transit payment systems are safe to use. We would request that you provide the Board of Directors with an update on both of the above issues at the next regularly scheduled Board meeting.

Respectfully,


David Alvarez
Councilmember
Council District 8


Lorie Zapf
Councilmember
Council District 2

CC: MTS Board of Directors