

Plan to increase penalties for crime on Muni moves forward

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San Francisco supervisors moved this morning to toughen penalties for crimes that occur on Muni vehicles or around transit stops.

The legislation, which won the unanimous support of the board's Public Safety Committee, targets two crimes: carrying a concealed weapon and aggressive pursuit, which is defined as the willful, malicious or repeated following or harassment of another person.



The legislation, which now heads to the full board for consideration, would double the maximum fine for both crimes to up to \$1,000. Offenders also could face up to six months in jail.

"The purpose is to make sure we send a strong message to the community that crime on Muni, crime at Muni stops (and) stations are things that are not tolerable, and that we are trying to work to improve that situation," said Supervisor Carmen Chu, chief sponsor of the proposal.

Supervisor Ross Mirkarimi, who signed on as a co-sponsor, called on the Municipal Transportation Agency launch a public awareness campaign to coincide with the harsher punishment. He would like to see Muni post announcements that highlight the new law "where it's obvious and conspicuous to the ridership and any punk or thug" thinking about committing a crime.

Supervisors took up the legislation after several violent incidents took place earlier this year along the T-Third line in the Bayview.

Posted By: Rachel Gordon | August 02 2010

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