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Riders call on Metro to halt bag searches; board sends to committee

By: [Kytja Weir](#) 01/27/11 8:05 PM

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Metro's board of directors punted on halting its controversial random bag searching policy Thursday, instead moving the issue to a committee for further discussion.

The Riders' Advisory Council had called on the agency to stop the searches, which began last month, until the policy could be evaluated and a public hearing held.

Several riders and civil liberties advocates also testified at the meeting.

"We're not against security, we're against pretend security," said Thomas Nephew, with the Montgomery County Civil Rights Coalition, as he presented more than 600 signatures against the bag search program.

"Terrorism is a strategy designed to get us to overreact," testified Jim Harper of the Cato Institute. "The bag searching policy is a very good example of overreacting."

New board member Kathy Porter, who represents Maryland, said she had some concerns about the policy, as well.

But Virginia representative Jeff McKay stood behind the policy, saying he wasn't going to question the decision of law enforcement officials. "If we do it, then we get blamed," he said. "If we don't do it and something unthinkable happens, we get blamed." - *Kytja Weir*

Read more at the Washington Examiner:

<http://washingtonexaminer.com/local/dc/2011/01/riders-call-metro-halt-bag-searches-board-sends-committee#ixzz1CLWeAfUG>