



Greater Cleveland
Regional Transit Authority

1240 West 6th Street
Cleveland, Ohio 44113-1302
Phone: 216-566-5100
riderta.com

MEETING NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the following meeting of the Civilian Oversight Committee of the Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority will take place on **Tuesday May 27, 2025**, in the Board Room of the Authority, 1240 West Sixth Street, Cleveland, OH 44113 for consideration of the listed items and such other items that may properly come before the Committee and be acted upon. Members of the public may attend in person.

The meeting package will be posted on RTA's website at (<https://www.riderta.com/coc>), on RTA's Facebook page, and RTA's Twitter page.

5:00 P.M. Civilian Oversight Committee

Review of Complaint Number C25-001.

Executive Session Requested –

- To consider the investigation of charges or complaints against a public employee, official, licensee or regulated individual.



India L. Birdsong Terry
General Manager, Chief Executive Officer

IBT: eb
Attachment

AGENDA

CIVILIAN OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

Tuesday, May 27, 2025

5:00 p.m.

Committee Members: Mr. Jonathan England, Chair
Mr. David Morris, Vice-Chair
Ms. Elise Hara Auvil
Mr. Michael Blake
Ms. Jakolya Gordon
Mr. George Taylor
Ms. Rebecca Wharton

Board of Trustees Liaison: Ms. Lauren R. Welch

Transit Police/
GCRTA Liaison: Commander Orlando Hudson

Executive Assistant/
COC Secretary: Ms. Emily Bailey

- I. Call to order.
- II. Roll Call.
- III. Certification regarding notice of committee meeting.
- IV. Approval of March 25, 2025, meeting minutes and May 5, 2025, special meeting minutes.
- V. Introduction of Complaint Number C25-001.
- VI. Executive Session Requested:
 - To consider the investigation of charges or complaints against a public employee, official, licensee or regulated individual.
- VII. Discussion/Action regarding Complaint Number C25-001.
- VIII. New business.
 - Reports and Announcements
- IX. Old Business
- X. Adjourn.

Minutes

Greater Cleveland RTA Civilian Oversight Committee
5:06 p.m., Tuesday, March 25th, 2025

Civilian Oversight Committee Members: Elise Auvil, Michael Blake, Jonathan England, Jakolya Gordon, David Morris, George Taylor, Rebecca Wharton

Not present: None

GCRTA BOT: None

Staff: Bailey, Burney, Darden, Degraffinried, Gettings, Hudson, Sulik, Wilson

Public: None

The meeting was called to order at 5:06 p.m. There were six (6) Committee members present. Ms. Gordon provided notice that she would be slightly late to the meeting and arrived shortly after roll call was taken.

It was advised that notice of this meeting had been posted more than twenty-four hours in advance of the meeting, that the usual notification had been given to the news media and other interested persons, and that all requirements of the Ohio Revised Code and Rules and Bylaws of the Board of Trustees regarding notice of meeting had been complied with.

Approval of January 28, 2025 COC Meeting Minutes

It was moved by Ms. Auvil and seconded by Ms. Wharton for approval. There were seven (7) ayes, and none opposed. The minutes were approved.

Announcement of new COC Operating Procedures and COC reappointments

Mr. Sulik noted that the GCRTA Board of Trustees approved the revisions to the COC Operating Procedures at the Board of Trustees' February meeting. Mr. Sulik stated that the biggest changes in the procedures have to do with the flow process and staff duties. Mr. Sulik also congratulated Mr. Morris and Ms. Wharton, who were reappointed unanimously by the GCRTA Board of Trustees. Their reappointment extends their term until 2028.

Office of Chair

It was moved by Ms. Wharton and seconded by Ms. Gordon that the nomination for the Office of Chair be Mr. Jonathan England. A roll call vote was taken; Mr. Morris – Yes, Ms. Gordon – Yes, Ms. Auvil – Yes, Mr. Blake – Yes, Mr. England – Yes, Mr. Taylor – Yes, Ms. Wharton – Yes. The motion carries. Mr. England has been appointed Chair of the Committee for 2025.

Office of Vice Chair

Ms. Wharton made a recommendation for Ms. Gordon to act as Vice-Chair for a second year. Ms. Gordon declined due to professional reasons. Ms. Wharton then made a recommendation for Ms. Auvil to act as Vice-Chair. Ms. Auvil declined due to personal reasons. It was moved by Ms. Wharton and seconded by Ms. Auvil that the nomination for the Office of Vice Chair be Mr. David Morris. A roll call vote was taken;

Mr. Morris – Yes, Ms. Gordon – Yes, Ms. Auvil – Yes, Mr. Blake – Yes, Mr. England –Yes, Mr. Taylor – Yes, Ms. Wharton – Yes. The motion carries. Mr. Morris has been appointed Vice Chair of the Committee for 2025.

Review 2025 regular meeting schedule

It was moved by Ms. Wharton and seconded by Ms. Gordon that the committee follow the meeting schedule reflected in the COC operating Procedures with the exception of moving the November 25th, 2025, meeting to November 18th, 2025. There were seven (7) ayes and none opposed. The motion carries.

Executive Session Requested

5:19 p.m. – it was moved by Ms. Wharton and seconded by Mr. Morris that the committee enter executive session to enable the COC to conference with GCRTA attorneys for information-gathering, fact-finding, and to receive legal advice, and to consider the investigation of charges or complaints against a public employee, official, licensee or regulated individual. A roll call vote was taken; Mr. Morris – Yes, Ms. Gordon – Yes, Ms. Auvil – Yes, Mr. Blake – Yes, Mr. England –Yes, Mr. Taylor – Yes, Ms. Wharton – Yes. The motion carries.

6:59 p.m. – It was moved by Ms. Auvil and seconded by Mr. Morris to come out of executive session. A roll call vote was taken; Mr. Morris – Yes, Ms. Gordon – Yes, Ms. Auvil – Yes, Mr. Blake – Yes, Mr. England – Yes, Mr. Taylor – Yes, Ms. Wharton – Yes. The motion carries.

Discussion / Action regarding Complaint Number C24-008

For Complaint Number C24-008 there were two issues identified, and the COC addressed each issue in turn.

Issue 1

Did Officer Hartman have the legal authority to issue the complainant a citation for criminal trespassing?

Mr. Morris made a motion, seconded by Ms. Auvil, that the committee find Issue One to be Exonerated. There were seven (7) ayes and none opposed. The motion carries.

Issue 2

Did Officer Rosa falsely accuse the complainant of hallucinating?

Ms. Wharton made a motion, seconded by Mr. Morris, that the committee find Issue Two to be Exonerated. There were seven (7) ayes and none opposed. The motion carries.

New Business

None

Adjourn

7:03 p.m. – It was moved by Ms. Wharton and seconded by Ms. Auvil that the meeting be adjourned. There were seven (7) ayes, and none opposed. The meeting was adjourned.

The next regularly scheduled Civilian Oversight Committee Meeting is Tuesday May 27, 2025, at 5pm in the Board Room of the Authority, Root-McBride Building, 1240 West Sixth Street, Cleveland, Ohio 44113. The public is welcome to attend in person.

Minutes

Greater Cleveland RTA Civilian Oversight Committee Special Meeting 5:00 p.m., Monday, May 5th, 2025

Civilian Oversight Committee Members: Elise Auvil, Michael Blake, David Morris, George Taylor, Rebecca Wharton

Not present: Jonthan England, Jakolya Gordon

GCRTA BOT: None

Staff: Bailey, Burney, Darden, Degraffinried, Gettings, Hudson, Schreiner

Public: None

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. There were five (5) Committee members present. Ms. Gordon advised that she was running late, and Mr. England notified the committee he would not be present and was excused.

It was advised that notice of this meeting had been posted more than twenty-four hours in advance of the meeting, that the usual notification had been given to the news media and other interested persons, and that all requirements of the Ohio Revised Code and Rules and Bylaws of the Board of Trustees regarding notice of meeting had been complied with.

Executive Session Requested

5:01 p.m. – it was moved by Ms. Auvil and seconded by Ms. Wharton that the committee enter executive session to enable the COC to consider the investigation of charges or complaints against a public employee, official, licensee or regulated individual. A roll call vote was taken; Mr. Morris – Yes, Ms. Auvil – Yes, Mr. Blake – Yes, Mr. Taylor – Yes, Ms. Wharton – Yes. The motion carries.

5:46 p.m. – It was moved by Ms. Auvil and seconded by Ms. Wharton to come out of executive session. A roll call vote was taken; Mr. Morris – Yes, Ms. Auvil – Yes, Mr. Blake – Yes, Mr. Taylor – Yes, Ms. Wharton – Yes. The motion carries.

Discussion / Action regarding Complaint Number C25-002

For Complaint Number C25-002 there were two issues identified, and the COC addressed each issue in turn

Issue 1

Did the Officers stop in an unsafe location?

Ms. Auvil made a motion seconded by Ms. Wharton that the committee found Issue One “Sustained”. A Roll Call Vote was taken; Mr. Morris – Yes, Ms. Auvil – Yes, Mr. Blake – Yes, Mr. Taylor – Yes, Ms. Wharton – Yes. The motion carries.

There were five (5) ayes and none opposed. The motion carries.

Issue 2

Did the Officers act outside of Transit Police Jurisdiction?

Ms. Auvil made a motion seconded by Ms. Wharton that the committee found Issue Two “Not Sustained”. A roll call vote was taken; Mr. Morris – Yes, Ms. Auvil – Yes, Mr. Blake – Yes, Mr. Taylor – No, Ms. Wharton – Yes. The motion carries.

There were four (4) ayes and one (1) opposed. The motion carries.

Adjourn

5:55 p.m. – It was moved by Ms. Wharton and seconded by Mr. Taylor that the meeting be adjourned. There were five (5) ayes, and none opposed. The meeting was adjourned.



GCRTA Transit Police Department

PUBLIC COMPLAINT FORM

Completed forms can be emailed to TPcomplaints@gcrt.org, mailed to the GCRTA Transit Police Department at ATTN: Transit Police; 1240 West 6th Street, Cleveland, Ohio 44113, or arrangements can be made to deliver the form by calling 216-356-3838. Upon receipt of a completed complaint form, the complaint will be assigned for investigation. Completed investigations will be classified as follows:

- **Sustained-** There is sufficient evidence to establish that the alleged act occurred and constituted misconduct.
- **Sustained in Part-** There is sufficient evidence to establish that one or more, but not all, alleged acts occurred.
- **Sustained for Violation Not Based on the Original Complaint-** There is sufficient evidence to establish that an act of misconduct occurred that was not part of the violations alleged in the Complaint.
- **Unfounded-** The alleged acts did not occur, did not involve Department personnel, or are frivolous.
- **Exonerated-** The alleged acts occurred, but were justified, lawful, and/or proper.
- **Not-sustained-** The facts and circumstances fail to establish if the conduct occurred.
- **Administratively Dismissed-** The complaint is not GCRTA related, does not involve a Transit Police employee, or is related to a service delay that is determined to be unavoidable.

COMPLAINANT

Name Jarisha [REDACTED]
Street Address [REDACTED] Apt. [REDACTED]
City Westlake State OH Zip [REDACTED]
Mobile Phone [REDACTED] Home Phone [REDACTED] Alt. Phone [REDACTED]
Email Address [REDACTED] @ [REDACTED]

SUBJECT(S) OF COMPLAINT Name(s), Badge Number(s), or Description(s) of accused personnel:

1. 90
2. [REDACTED]
3. [REDACTED]

WITNESSES (If necessary, give names/phone numbers of additional witnesses in incident detail below)

1. Name [REDACTED] Phone Number [REDACTED]
2. Name [REDACTED] Phone Number [REDACTED]
3. Name [REDACTED] Phone Number [REDACTED]

INCIDENT: Date 3/1/2025 Time 2:30am Ticket and/or Report Number [REDACTED]
Location [REDACTED]

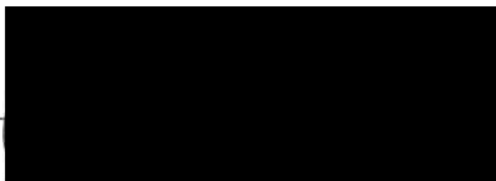
Please provide details of the incident and the alleged misconduct, describe any sustained injuries and other facts related to the incident. Do not include unsubstantiated information such as gossip or rumor. Attach additional pages as necessary, including other reports or documentation, photographs, medical records, etc.

A series of events took place on this day leading up to this report being filed on one responding officer (badge 90) who when I made it clear I wanted to file a complaint against an operator for their mistreatment and unprofessionalism regarding my presence on coach 6008, however a previous incident that initiated the overall experience was a random intoxicated male playing music on his phone via speaker and I called transit dispatch to report. I was told I would be ~~ask~~ taken off coach and asked about suitcases. (I don't know who he was confusing me with) As the person reporting I followed up to know how the situation should've been handled and was told otherwise prompting me to want to file a complaint. Incident #2 he smirked and disregarded my request

to get incident # for complaint against operator of Coach # 6008 for being snarky and rude with comments from E. 115th to E. 89th where I informed dispatch of operator's behavior. Badge 90 wanted to dismiss my claims of operator being unprofessional and condescending.

I hereby state under penalty of Perjury (Revised Code 2921.11) that I am the complainant in this complaint, that I have prepared, read, and fully understand all matters set forth in this complaint, that this may result in an official investigation, and the information provided is true and complete to my knowledge.

I understand that filing a false report of misconduct against a Peace Officer is in violation of section 2921.15 of the Ohio Revised Code, a misdemeanor of the first degree.



3-1-2025

Date

Complaint received by:

Robin Dietz

Printed Name and Signature of Representative Accepting Complaint

03/01/25

Date

0415

Time

DEPARTMENTAL USE ONLY

Investigating Supervisor _____

Investigative Actions: _____

Approved by _____ Date _____

Civilian Oversight Committee Recommendation:

____ Sustained ____ Sustained in Part ____ Sustained for Violation Not Based on Original Complaint

____ Unfounded ____ Exonerated ____ Non-sustained ____ Administratively Dismissed

Final Determination:

____ Sustained ____ Sustained in Part ____ Sustained for Violation Not Based on Original Complaint

____ Unfounded ____ Exonerated ____ Non-sustained ____ Administratively Dismissed