

RESOLUTION NO. 2023-85

APPOINTMENT OF ELEVEN MEMBERS TO THE COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

WHEREAS, under Article VI, Section 4 of the Bylaws of the Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority ("Authority"), the Board of Trustees ("Board") is authorized to establish special advisory committees; and

WHEREAS, for many years, the Board has maintained a Community Advisory Committee ("CAC"); and

WHEREAS, under Resolution No. 2023-014, the Board updated Section 222.04 Community Advisory Committee of the Authority's Codified Rules and Regulations ("Code Book") and re-energized the CAC; and

WHEREAS, the CAC's purpose is to support public transit in Northeast Ohio, and to assist the Authority in fulfilling its mission and vision, through: (A) advocating for public transit; (B) promoting sound public policies; and (C) providing customer focused input to the Board of Trustees and Authority staff; and

WHEREAS, under Section 222.04(b)(1) of the Code Book, the Board is required to appoint at least eleven (11) members to serve on the CAC; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees created an Ad Hoc Selection Committee for interviewing applicants to the CAC and recommending eleven (11) candidates for appointment; and

WHEREAS, the Ad Hoc Selection Committee interviewed applicants for the CAC and recommended to the Board of Trustees the appointment of the following eleven (11) candidates:

**Brewington, Johnny:** Johnny is a retired Chief of Fire for the Village of Woodmere. Johnny has previously served on the Community Advisory Committee and is currently a board member of the Western Reserve Fire Museum and Education Center. Johnny utilizes fixed-route and rail services 2-3 times a week.

**Burmeister, Brooklyn:** Brooklyn presently works as an Architectural Designer for the DLR Group. Brooklyn is a member of the American Institute of Architects (AIA) and AIA Cleveland. Brooklyn is a self-appointed public transit advocate who utilizes fixed-route services daily.

**Gibbons, Brian:** Brian has years of experience representing labor forces, senior management of public media, non-profit, and government agencies. Brian currently is a member of Clevelanders for Public Transit and Northern Ohioans for Budget Legislation. Brian utilizes fixed-route services 4-5 times a week.

**Kennick, Charles:** Charles presently works as a Neighborhood Development Coordinator for the Old Brooklyn Community Development Corporation ("CDC"). Charles is a member of the Old Brooklyn CDC and the Franklin Clinton Block Club. Charles utilizes fixed-route and rail service 2-3 times a week.

**Howerton, Alicia:** Alicia presently works as the Strategic Partnership Manager for the Cleveland Sight Center. Alicia serves on the Cuyahoga County Advisory Committee on Persons with Disabilities (CCACPD) and is Co-Chair of the CCACPD Subcommittee for Transportation. Alicia is a frequent Paratransit rider.

**Laird, Nichole:** Nichole presently works as a Planner for the Cuyahoga County Planning Commission. Nichole is a member of the American Planning Association and a Civic Vision Advisor at Look Up to Cleveland. Nichole utilizes fixed-route service daily.

**Loh:** Loh is a member of various community organizations including Northern Ohioans for Budget Legislation, ADAMHS Board of Cuyahoga County Action Committee, and Clevelanders for Public Transit. Loh utilizes fixed-route and rail services daily.

**Meissner, Paul:** Paul presently works as a Financial Controller for the Realife Real Estate Group/ HSK Management. Paul is a member of Clevelanders for Public Transit and is the Precinct Election Officer for the Cuyahoga County Board of Elections. Paul utilizes fixed-route and rail services 2-3 times a week.

**Sieck, Jonathan:** Jonathan's profession is in managing the mobile field workforce with the responsibility of route planning, capacity requirements, communication, and efficiency. Jonathan currently serves on the board of directors for Neighborhood Family Practice and is a member of the South of Lorain Block Club. Jonathan utilizes fixed-route and rail services daily.

**Sopko, Dr. Joseph:** Dr. Sopko is a retired physician who worked at St. Vincent Charity Hospital for 40 years. Dr. Sopko has previously served on GCRTA's Community Advisory Committee and is currently president of The Board of Les Delices. Dr. Sopko utilizes fixed-route and rail services 2-3 times a week.

**Ware, Cole:** Cole serves as an Associate for Results for America. Cole is a member of the Cleveland Heights Transportation and Environmental Sustainability Committee and Co-Founder of the Coventry Neighborhood Group. Cole utilizes fixed-route and rail services 3-5 times a month.

WHEREAS, under Section 222.04(b)(1)(B) of the Codified Rules and Regulations of the Authority, to ensure that the CAC member terms will be staggered, three CAC members' initial appointments shall be for one (1) year, and eight CAC members' initial appointments shall be for two (2) years; and

WHEREAS, Members of the CAC will receive unlimited transit privileges during their service.

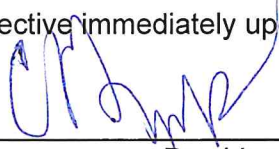
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Trustees of the Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority, Cuyahoga County, Ohio:


Section 1. That candidates Johnny Brewington, Nichole Laird, and Dr. Joseph Sopko shall be appointed as members of the Community Advisory Committee for an initial appointment term of one (1) year.

Section 2. That candidates Brooklyn Burmeister, Brian Gibbons, Alicia Howerton, Charles Kennick, Loh, Paul Meissner, Jonathan Sieck, and Cole Ware shall be appointed as members of the Community Advisory Committee for an initial appointment term of two (2) years.

Section 3. That this resolution shall become effective immediately upon its adoption.

Adopted: November 28, 2023

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
President

Attest:   
\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary-Treasurer



TITLE/DESCRIPTION:  APPOINTMENT OF ELEVEN MEMBERS TO THE COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE	Resolution No.: <b>2023-85</b>
	Date: November 22, 2023
	Initiator: Board of Trustees
ACTION REQUEST: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Approval <input type="checkbox"/> Review/Comment <input type="checkbox"/> Information Only <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____	

- 1.0 PURPOSE/SCOPE: This resolution will appoint eleven members to the Community Advisory Committee ("CAC"), thereby allowing the CAC to recommence operations and serve in its advisory role to the Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority Board of Trustees ("Board").
- 2.0 DESCRIPTION/JUSTIFICATION: For many years, the Board has maintained a committee of community advisors. In early 2023, the Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority ("Authority") updated Section 222.04 Community Advisory Committee of the Authority's Codified Rules and Regulations ("Code Book") and re-energized the CAC. The revisions included streamlining the subcommittee structure, creating a Rules Subcommittee to review the Operating Guidelines, reducing the number of members from 20 to 11-15, reducing the terms of members from 3 to 2 years, clarifying the provision for emeritus status, and adding a requirement for members to be residents of Cuyahoga County. The purpose of the CAC is to support public transit in Northeast Ohio, and to assist the Authority in fulfilling its mission and vision through: (A) advocating for public transit; (B) promoting sound public policies; and (C) providing customer focused input to the Board of Trustees and Authority staff.
- 3.0 PROCUREMENT BACKGROUND: Does not apply.
- 4.0 DBE/AFFIRMATIVE ACTION BACKGROUND: Does not apply.
- 5.0 POLICY IMPACT: Under Section 222.04(b)(1) of the Codified Rules and Regulations of the Authority, the Board may appoint eleven (11) to fifteen (15) members to the CAC.
- 6.0 ECONOMIC IMPACT: Members of the CAC will receive unlimited transit privileges during their service.
- 7.0 ALTERNATIVES: Not adopting this resolution. The CAC members would not be appointed and the commencement of the CAC's operations would be delayed.
- 8.0 RECOMMENDATION: The eleven candidates for appointment to the CAC were chosen after an extensive application and interview process conducted by an Ad Hoc Selection Committee consisting of one Board member and three Authority staff members. The candidates were recommended for appointment at the November 28, 2023 meeting of the External and Stakeholder Relations & Advocacy Committee. It is recommended that this resolution be passed appointing eleven members to the CAC.
- 9.0 ATTACHMENTS: None.

Recommended and certified as appropriate to the availability of funds, legal form and conformance with the Procurement requirements.

  
General Manager, Chief Executive Officer