

Minutes

Greater Cleveland RTA Civilian Oversight Committee
5:01 p.m., Tuesday, March 26th, 2024

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

Not present: None

Staff: Bailey, Caver, Darden, Flachbart, Gettings, Hudson, Schipper, Sulik

Public: None

The meeting was called to order at 5:01 p.m. There were five (5) Committee members present.

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 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 the January 30, 2024, COC Meeting Minutes

It was moved by Ms. Auvil and seconded by Mr. Taylor. The minutes were approved.

Discussion of Membership to National Association for Civilian Oversight of Law Enforcement

Mr. Sulik gave a brief overview of how the Committee would gain membership and membership fees. It was recommended to the Committee that if they would like to have an organizational membership to the National Association for Civilian Oversight Law that they would need to present the ask to the GCRTA BOT via Ms. Lauren Welch. The cost for an organization to gain membership for 1 year is \$500.

After some discussion and questions about the benefits of belonging to the Association it was decided by the Committee that the RTA Staff Members put together a presentation about the National Association for Civilian Oversight of Law Enforcement. After they have a full presentation on the benefits, resources, and information they would have access to the Committee will then vote on whether they would like to take this item to the GCRTA BOT.

New Business

Commander Hudson notified the committee that they had received a complaint, and that the committee would be receiving the complaint in the next 10-15 days. Commander Hudson asked Mr. Sulik to review the complaint process. Mr. Sulik stated that once a complaint is received, it goes to the Transit Police Department who completes an investigation either through the Office of Professional Standards or their designee. Once the Transit Police investigation is complete, the complaint will go to the Administrative Commander who will then forward it to the Committee. Once the Committee has received the complaint, they have 10 days to decide whether they will review the complaint or pass on it. That decision will happen in a special meeting. After the Committee reviews the complaint, they will have 60 days to return their findings and summary.

It was decided by the Committee that once the special meeting has been scheduled to review the complaint, an executive session would be added to that agenda so they can review the investigation.

Due to Ms. Welch being absent, Ms. Bailey gave an update on the COC Vacancies. The Applications that were received have been screened. Of the 8 applications received, 5 have been sent to the background and interview stage.

Ms. Wharton asked GCRTA Staff if the Committee could be trained in “Response To Resistance” exactly as the RTA Transit police have been trained, due to the fact that the majority of complaints the Committee expects to receive will be related to “Response To Resistance”. Commander Hudson assured the Committee that should a complaint come in of that nature the Committee would receive refresher training as well as be notified of any updates to the policy. COO Dr. Floun’say Caver let the Committee know that RTA staff can offer a “Response To Resistance” training in person for those that would like to be in person, and record it for those members that would like to view it on their own time. Given the impending complaint and special meeting that is going to be needed, the Committee decided to wait on scheduling the training until after that process is complete.

Upcoming Meeting

The next regularly scheduled Civilian Oversight Committee Meeting is Tuesday May 28th, 2024, 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.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:50 p.m.