

Civilian Oversight Committee (COC)

Committee of the Whole

November 4, 2025

PURPOSE & HISTORY

- To review and investigate public complaints filed against GCRTA Transit Police employees and make recommendations to the Chief of Police on disposition.
- Recommendations must be consistent with GCRTA/TP rules, policies, procedures, and any applicable collective bargaining agreements.
- Five initial members were appointed on September 26, 2023.
- Two more members were appointed on June 25, 2024.
- First official meeting held on January 30, 2024.

COMMITTEE COMPOSITION

- Seven individuals from diverse communities within Cuyahoga County.
- At least one retired police officer with Ohio Peace Officer Training Academy (OPOTA) training and investigative experience.
- Selected by application to the COC by the Board of Trustees.
- Terms for COC members are three years.
- Initial terms were staggered at one, two, and three year intervals.

Members Requesting Re-Appointment

- **Jonathan England:** Jonathan has served in numerous managerial and supervisory roles over the last 17 years. Jonathan has experience and expertise with safety programs, policies, and regulations, with a focus on the transportation industry. Jonathan has also served as the 2025 Chair of the COC. New three-year term will expire December 31, 2028.

Members Requesting Re-Appointment

- **Michael Blake:** Michael served time as a Military Police Officer for the United States Army and dedicated 35 years of his life serving as a firefighter for the City of Cleveland. During his tenure as a firefighter, Michael worked his way through the ranks from Firefighter, to Lieutenant, to Captain, and finally to Battalion Chief. New three-year term will expire December 31, 2028.

Recommendation

Staff requests that the Committee of the Whole recommend to the Board of Trustees the re-appointment of Jonathan England and Michael Blake as members of the Civilian Oversight Committee.

Questions