

Minutes

Greater Cleveland RTA Civilian Oversight Committee
5:00 p.m., Tuesday, March 31st, 2026

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

Not present: Elise Auvil

GCRTA BOT: Mayor Gallo

Staff: Bailey, Caver, Darden, Degraffinried, Flachbart, Schreiner, Sulik, Tulevski

Public: None

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. There were five (5) Civilian Oversight Committee (“Committee”) members present.

It was advised that notice of this meeting had been posted more than twenty-four (24) 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 27, 2026, and February 12, 2026, Committee Meeting Minutes

It was moved by Mr. Morris and seconded by Ms. Wharton to approve the meeting minutes for the January 27, 2026, regular meeting and February 12, 2026, special meeting. All were in favor, and none opposed. The minutes from January 27, 2026, and February 12, 2026, were approved.

Introduction of Complaint Number C25-009, Complaint Number C26-001, Complaint Number C26-002 and Complaint Number C26-003.

Executive Session Requested

5:02 p.m. – it was moved by Ms. Wharton and seconded by Mr. Morris that the Committee enter executive session to consider the investigation of charges or complaints against a public employee, official, licensee or regulated individual. A roll call vote was taken; Mr. England –Yes, Mr. Morris – Yes, Mr. Blake – Yes, Ms. Gordon – Yes, Ms. Wharton – Yes. There are five (5) ayes, motion carries.

7:24 p.m. – It was moved by Mr. Morris and seconded by Ms. Wharton to come out of executive session. A roll call vote was taken; Mr. England –Yes, Mr. Morris – Yes, Mr. Blake – Yes, Ms. Gordon – Yes, Ms. Wharton – Yes. There are five (5) ayes, motion carries.

Discussion / Action regarding Complaint Number C25-009, Complaint Number C26-001, Complaint Number C26-002 and Complaint Number C26-003

For Complaint Number C25-009 there were two (2) issues identified, and the COC addressed each issue in turn.

Issue 1

Did Officer Rosa act unprofessionally toward the Complainant?

Mr. Morris made a motion, seconded by Ms. Wharton, that the Committee find Issue One to be "Unfounded." There were five (5) ayes, and none opposed. The motion carries.

Issue 2

Did Officer Tymoc "aggressively" push the Complainant's stomach against the wall?

Mr. Morris made a motion, seconded by Ms. Wharton, that the Committee find Issue Two to be "Exonerated." There were five (5) ayes, and none opposed. The motion carries.

For Complaint Number C26-001 there were two (2) issues identified, and the COC addressed each issue in turn.

Issue 1

Did Transit Police Officers snatch the Complainant by her shirt and question her without cause to do so?

Mr. Morris made a motion, seconded by Ms. Wharton, that the Committee find Issue One to be "Unfounded." There were five (5) ayes, and none opposed. The motion carries.

Issue 2

Did Transit Police Officers violate the Complainant's rights by making her raise her shirt and expose her breasts?

Mr. Morris made a motion, seconded by Ms. Wharton, that the Committee find Issue Two to be "Unfounded." There were five (5) ayes, and none opposed. The motion carries.

For Complaint Number C26-002 there were three (3) issues identified, and the COC addressed each issue in turn

Issue 1

Did Officer Alikic apply the handcuffs too tightly on the Complainant?

Mr. Morris made a motion, seconded by Ms. Wharton, that the Committee find Issue One to be "Exonerated."

Ms. Gordon stated that the Committee discussed the difference between Exonerated and Unfounded and that she felt the better finding on this issue would be Unfounded.

A vote was taken on the motion; there were four (4) ayes, and one (1) opposed. The motion carries.

Issue 2

Did Officer Jones "defend" Officer Alikic in response to the Complainant's complaint?

Mr. England made a motion, seconded by Ms. Wharton, that the Committee find Issue Two to be "Exonerated." There were five (5) ayes, and none opposed. The motion carries.

Issue 3

Did Officer Alikic fail to loosen or address the handcuffs after the Complainant complained?

Mr. England made a motion, seconded by Mr. Blake, that the Committee find Issue Three to be "Exonerated."

Ms. Gordon stated that the Committee once again had a discussion between the disposition being Exonerated and Unfounded and that she felt Unfounded was the better suited finding.

A vote was taken on the motion; there were four (4) ayes, and one (1) opposed. The motion carries.

For Complaint Number C26-003 there was one (1) issue identified.

Issue 1

Did Officer Koncz have the legal authority to direct the Complainant to the second train car, and if so, was it an appropriate use of that authority?

Mr. Morris made a motion, seconded by Ms. Wharton, that the Committee find Issue One to be "Sustained." There were five (5) ayes, and none opposed. The motion carries.

Ms. Wharton made a motion, seconded by Mr. England, that as a result of the sustained finding for Issue One, the Committee recommends the TP Officer receive a coaching regarding the appropriate use of legal authority and receive training on relevant policies and procedures. There were five (5) ayes, and none opposed. The motion carries.

Ms. Wharton stated that during the review of this complaint, there was a violation found that was not based the initial complaint, but the Committee has decided to leave that issue to the Transit Police management team to resolve.

New Business

Commander Hudson noted that there has been an uptick in complaints received by Transit Police as they continue to address Quality of Life issues and so there may be a need for a special meeting in April.

Ms. Wharton asked that the Committee receive the COC application and webpage via email so that they are able to give information about joining the Committee to prospective applicants. Ms. Bailey confirmed that she will send the documents to the Committee.

Mr. Sulik stated Ms. Auvil resigned from the Committee on March 15, 2026 for personal reasons, effective immediately. He also reminded the Committee that applications are available online on the ONERTA.com website.

Old Business

None

Adjourn

7:38 p.m. – It was moved by Ms. Wharton and seconded by Mr. Morris that the meeting be adjourned. There were five (5) ayes, and none opposed. The meeting was adjourned.

The next regularly scheduled Civilian Oversight Committee Meeting is Tuesday May 26, 2026, at 5 p.m. 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.