

Minutes

Greater Cleveland RTA Civilian Oversight Committee
5:00 p.m., Tuesday, July 28th, 2026

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

Not present: None.

GCRTA BOT: None

Staff: Bailey, Darden, Degraffinried, Ext, Hudson, Schreiner, Wilson, Tulevski

Public: None

The meeting was called to order at 5:04 p.m. There were three (3) Civilian Oversight Committee ("Committee") members present. Ms. Gordon provided notice that she would be slightly late for the meeting and arrived during executive session.

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 May 26, 2026 Meeting Minutes.

It was moved by Mr. Morris and seconded by Ms. Wharton to approve the meeting minutes for the May 26, 2026, regular meeting. All were in favor, and none opposed. The minutes from May 26, 2026, were approved.

Introduction of Complaint Numbers C26-007, C26-008, C26-009 and C26-010.

Executive Session Requested

5:06 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, Ms. Wharton – Yes. There are three (3) ayes, motion carries.

6:32 p.m. – It was moved by Ms. Wharton and seconded by Mr. Morris to come out of executive session. A roll call vote was taken; Mr. England –Yes, Mr. Morris – Yes, Ms. Gordon – Yes, Ms. Wharton - Yes. There are four (4) ayes, motion carries.

Discussion / Action regarding Complaint Number C26-007, Complaint Number C26-008, Complaint Number C26-009 and Complaint Number C26-010.

For Complaint Number C26-007 there were two (2) issues identified, and the COC addressed each issue in turn.

Issue 1

Did the Officer make threatening comments to the CSU PD Officer?

Ms. Wharton made a motion, seconded by Mr. Morris, that the Committee find Issue One to be "Not Sustained." A roll call vote was taken; Mr. England – Yes, Mr. Morris – Yes, Ms. Gordon – Abstain, Ms. Wharton - Yes. There were three (3) ayes. The motion carries.

Issue 2

Was the Officer belligerent with CSU PD Officers?

Ms. Wharton made a motion, seconded by Mr. Morris, that the Committee find Issue Two to be "Not Sustained." A roll call vote was taken; Mr. England – Yes, Mr. Morris – Yes, Ms. Gordon – Abstain, Ms. Wharton - Yes. There were three (3) ayes. The motion carries.

For Complaint Number C26-008 there were two (2) issues identified, and the COC addressed each issue in turn.

Issue 1

Did the Officer make threatening comments to the CSU PD Officer?

Ms. Wharton made a motion, seconded by Mr. Morris, that the Committee find Issue One to be "Not Sustained." A roll call vote was taken; Mr. England – Yes, Mr. Morris – Yes, Ms. Gordon – Abstain, Ms. Wharton - Yes. There were three (3) ayes. The motion carries.

Issue 2

Was the Officer belligerent with CSU PD Officers?

Ms. Wharton made a motion, seconded by Mr. Morris, that the Committee find Issue Two to be "Not Sustained." A roll call vote was taken; Mr. England – Yes, Mr. Morris – Yes, Ms. Gordon – Abstain, Ms. Wharton - Yes. There were three (3) ayes. The motion carries.

For Complaint Number C26-009 there were four (4) issues identified, and the COC addressed each issue in turn.

Issue 1

Was the complainant arrested erroneously?

Ms. Wharton made a motion, seconded by Mr. Morris, that the Committee find Issue One to be "Exonerated." A roll call vote was taken; Mr. England – Yes, Mr. Morris – Yes, Ms. Gordon – Abstain, Ms. Wharton - Yes. There were three (3) ayes. The motion carries.

Issue 2

Did Officers allow the suspect to leave with the complainant's belongings?

Ms. Wharton made a motion, seconded by Mr. Morris, that the Committee find Issue Two to be "Exonerated." A roll call vote was taken; Mr. England – Yes, Mr. Morris – Yes, Ms. Gordon – Abstain, Ms. Wharton - Yes. There were three (3) ayes. The motion carries.

Issue 3

Were Officers unprofessional during the incident?

Ms. Wharton made a motion, seconded by Mr. Morris, that the Committee find Issue Three to be "Exonerated." A roll call vote was taken; Mr. England – Yes, Mr. Morris – Yes, Ms. Gordon – Abstain, Ms. Wharton - Yes. There were three (3) ayes. The motion carries.

Issue 4

Were Officers justified in Tasing the Complainant?

Ms. Wharton made a motion, seconded by Mr. Morris, that the Committee find Issue Four to be "Exonerated." A roll call vote was taken; Mr. England – Yes, Mr. Morris – Yes, Ms. Gordon – Abstain, Ms. Wharton - Yes. There were three (3) ayes. The motion carries.

After discussing the issues found in the complaint Ms. Wharton made a motion seconded by Mr. Morris, that the Officers receive a commendation for their above and beyond professional actions during their interactions with the Complainant and that this situation be used as a training tool in the future.

Ms. Gordon abstained but stated that she was in full support of the motion and trusted the judgement of the other members on the Committee.

A roll call vote was taken; Mr. England – Yes, Mr. Morris – Yes, Ms. Gordon – Abstain, Ms. Wharton - Yes. There were three (3) ayes. The motion carries.

For Complaint Number C26-010 there were two (2) issues identified, and the COC addressed each issue in turn.

Issue 1

Did the Officer make derogatory statements or make obscene gestures toward the Complainant?

Ms. Wharton made a motion, seconded by Mr. Morris, that the Committee find Issue One to be "Not Sustained." A roll call vote was taken; Mr. England – Yes, Mr. Morris – Yes, Ms. Gordon – Yes, Ms. Wharton - Yes. There were four (4) ayes. The motion carries.

Issue 2

Did the Officer act unprofessionally toward the Complainant?

Ms. Wharton made a motion, seconded by Mr. Morris, that the Committee find Issue Two to be "Sustained." A roll call vote was taken; Mr. England – Yes, Mr. Morris – Yes, Ms. Gordon – No, Ms. Wharton - Yes. There were three (3) ayes. The motion carries.

Due to Issue two being found to be "Sustained" Mr. England made a motion, seconded by Mr. Morris, that Emotional Intelligence Training that the Officer already completed be sufficient for the recommendation. A roll call vote was taken; Mr. England – Yes, Mr. Morris – Yes, Ms. Gordon – Yes, Ms. Wharton - Yes. There were four (4) ayes. The motion carries.

New Business

Ms. Bailey notified the Committee that Mr. Michael Blake resigned from the Committee due to personal reasons. She shared that RTA Leadership and Mayor Gallo are aware and that staff are working to fill the vacancies. She confirmed that the RTA website does advertise the vacancies, as well on RTA social media.

Ms. Gordon asked if the struggle in filling the vacancies were due to getting in applications or if the struggle was finding qualified candidates. Ms. Bailey responded by saying that there were two parts to that answer. The first being that there have not been very many applications received and that for the ones that have received they did not meet all of the qualifications necessary including residing in Cuyahoga County and the vacancy that needs to be filled by an OPOTA certified, retired Police Officer.

Old Business

None

Adjourn

6:44 p.m. – It was moved by Ms. Wharton and seconded by Mr. Morris that the meeting be adjourned. There were four (4) ayes, and none opposed. The meeting was adjourned.

The next regularly scheduled Civilian Oversight Committee Meeting is Tuesday September 29, 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.