

Minutes

Greater Cleveland RTA Civilian Oversight Committee
5:12 p.m., Tuesday, January 27th, 2026

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

Not present: Elise Auvil

GCRTA BOT: Mayor Gallo

Staff: Burney, Caver, Darden, Degraffinried, Flachbart, Gettings, Medlong, Schreiner, Sulik

Public: None

The meeting was called to order at 5:12 p.m. There were five (5) 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 September 30, 2025, and November 18, 2025, Committee Meeting Minutes

It was moved by Ms. Wharton and seconded by Mr. Taylor for approval. All were in favor, and none opposed. The minutes from September 30, 2025, and November 18, 2025, were approved.

Office of Chair

It was moved by Mr. Taylor and seconded by Ms. Wharton that the nomination for the Office of Chair be Mr. Jonathan England. A roll call vote was taken; Mr. Morris – Yes, Mr. Blake – Yes, Mr. England –Yes, Mr. Taylor – Yes, Ms. Wharton – Yes. The motion carries. Mr. England has been appointed Chair of the Committee for 2026.

Office of Vice Chair

It was moved by Ms. Wharton and seconded by Mr. Taylor that the nomination for the Office of Vice Chair be Mr. David Morris. A roll call vote was taken; Mr. Morris – Yes, Mr. Blake – Yes, Mr. England –Yes, Mr. Taylor – Yes, Ms. Wharton – Yes. The motion carries. Mr. Morris has been appointed Vice Chair of the Committee for 2026.

Introduction of Complaint Number C25-005 and Complaint Number C25-007

Executive Session Requested

5:18 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 – Absent, Mr. Taylor – Yes, Ms. Wharton – Yes. There are five (5) ayes, motion carries.

7:09 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, Mr. Taylor – Yes, Ms. Wharton – Yes. There are six (6) ayes, motion carries.

Discussion / Action regarding Complaint Number C25-005 and Complaint Number C25-007

For Complaint Number C25-005 there were six issues identified, and the COC addressed each issue in turn.

Issue 1

Did Detective Kemmet nearly bump into the Complainant without saying “excuse me”?

Ms. Wharton made a motion, seconded by Mr. Taylor, that the Committee find Issue One to be “Unfounded.” There were six (6) ayes, and none opposed. The motion carries.

Issue 2

Did Detective Kemmet behave inappropriately (hostile, aggressive, harassing, intimidating) while engaging the Complainant?

Ms. Wharton made a motion, seconded by Mr. Taylor, that the Committee find Issue Two to be “Sustained.” There were six (6) ayes, and none opposed. The motion carries.

Issue 3

Was there a need for Officer intervention during Detective Kemmet’s interaction with the Complainant?

Ms. Wharton made a motion, seconded by Ms. Gordon, that the Committee find Issue Three to be “Sustained in Part.” There were six (6) ayes, and none opposed. The motion carries.

Issue 4

Did Officers on scene fail to contact a supervisor at the Complainant’s request?

Ms. Wharton made a motion, seconded by Ms. Gordon, that the Committee find Issue Four to be “Sustained in Part.” There were six (6) ayes, and none opposed. The motion carries.

Issue 5

Did Officers on scene fail to identify themselves or provide badge numbers?

Ms. Wharton made a motion, seconded by Mr. Morris, that the Committee find Issue Five to be “Not Sustained.” There were six (6) ayes, and none opposed. The motion carries.

Issue 6

Did Officer Brown-Kirby attempt to avoid involvement by walking away?

Ms. Wharton made a motion, seconded by Mr. Taylor, that the Committee find Issue Six to be "Unfounded." There were six (6) ayes, and none opposed. The motion carries.

For Complaint Number C25-007, the Committee did not complete its review of C25-007 and will complete its review of the complaint at a future special meeting to be announced at a later date.

New Business

Reports and Announcements

Review regular meeting schedule for 2026.

It was moved by Ms. Wharton and seconded by Mr. Morris that the committee follow the meeting schedule reflected in the COC operating Procedures with the exception of moving the November 24th, 2026, meeting to November 17th, 2026. There were six (6) ayes and none opposed. The motion carries.

Adjourn

7:27 p.m. – It was moved by Ms. Wharton and seconded by Ms. Auvil that the meeting be adjourned. There were six (6) ayes, and none opposed. The meeting was adjourned.

The next regularly scheduled Civilian Oversight Committee Meeting is Tuesday March 31, 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.