



Greater Cleveland
Regional Transit Authority

1240 West 6th Street
Cleveland, Ohio 44113-1302
Phone: 216-566-5100
riderta.com

MEETING NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the following meeting of the Civilian Oversight Committee of the Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority will take place on **Tuesday November 19, 2024**, in the Board Room of the Authority, 1240 West Sixth Street, Cleveland, OH 44113 for consideration of the listed items and such other items that may properly come before the Committee and be acted upon. Members of the public may attend in person.

The meeting package will be posted on RTA's website at (<https://www.riderta.com/coc>), on RTA's Facebook page, and RTA's Twitter page.

5:00 P.M. Civilian Oversight Committee

Executive Session Requested –

- To enable the COC to conference with GCRTA attorneys for information-gathering, fact-finding, and to receive legal advice.
- To consider the investigation of charges or complaints against a public employee, official, licensee or regulated individual.

Review of Complaint Number C24-005 and Complaint Number C24-006.

Executive Session Requested –

- To consider the investigation of charges or complaints against a public employee, official, licensee or regulated individual.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "India L. Birdsong Terry".

India L. Birdsong Terry
General Manager, Chief Executive Officer

IBT: eb
Attachment

AGENDA

CIVILIAN OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

Tuesday, November 19, 2024

5:00 p.m.

Committee Members: Mr. David Morris, Chair
Ms. Jakolya Gordon, Vice-Chair
Ms. Elisa Hara Auvil
Mr. Michael Blake
Mr. Jonathan England
Mr. George Taylor
Ms. Rebecca Wharton

Board of Trustees Liaison: Ms. Lauren R. Welch

Transit Police/
GCRTA Liaison: Commander Orlando Hudson

Executive Assistant/
COC Secretary: Ms. Emily Bailey

- I. Call to order.
- II. Roll Call.
- III. Certification regarding notice of committee meeting.
- IV. Approval of September 24, 2024, meeting minutes
- V. Executive Session Requested:
 - To consider the investigation of charges or complaints against a public employee, official, licensee or regulated individual.
 - To enable the COC to conference with GCRTA attorneys for information-gathering, fact-finding, and to receive legal advice.
- VI. Review of Complaint Number C24-005 and Complaint Number C24-006.
- VII. Executive Session Requested:
 - To consider the investigation of charges or complaints against a public employee, official, licensee or regulated individual.

- VIII. Discussion/Action regarding Complaint Number C24-005.
- IX. Discussion/Action regarding Complaint Number C24-006.
- X. New business.
 - Reports and Announcements
- XI. Adjourn.

Minutes

Greater Cleveland RTA Civilian Oversight Committee
5:03 p.m., Tuesday, September 24th, 2024

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

Not present: Jonathan England

GCRTA BOT: Lauren Welch

Staff: Bailey, Burney, Caver, Darden, Degraffinried, Flachbart, Gettings, Hudson, Medlong, Sulik,

Public: None

The meeting was called to order at 5:03 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 July 30, 2024, COC Meeting Minutes

It was moved by Ms. Wharton and seconded by Mr. Taylor to approve the July 30, 2024 meeting minutes. There were 5 ayes, and none opposed, the motion carries.

Executive Session Requested

5:06 p.m. – it was moved by Ms. Wharton and seconded by Ms. Gordon that the committee enter executive session to enable the COC to conference with GCRTA attorneys for information-gathering, fact-finding, and to receive legal advice, and to consider the investigation of charges or complaints against a public employee, official, licensee or regulated individual. A Roll Call Vote was taken; Mr. Morris – Yes, Ms. Gordon – Yes, Ms. Auvil – Excused, Mr. Blake – Yes, Mr. England – Excused, Mr. Taylor – Yes, Ms. Wharton – Yes. The motion carries.

Ms. Auvil joined the meeting during executive session.

6:08 p.m. – It was moved by Ms. Wharton and seconded by Mr. Taylor to come out of executive session. A Roll Call Vote was taken; Mr. Morris – Yes, Ms. Gordon – Yes, Ms. Auvil – Yes, Mr. Blake – Yes, Mr. England – Excused, Mr. Taylor – Yes, Ms. Wharton – Yes. The motion carries.

Final Summary of Complaint Number C24-003

Mr. Morris asked for a motion for a finding on the first issue of Complaint #C24-003 of whether Acting Lt. Medlong threatened the complainant?

Ms. Gordon made a motion, seconded by Ms. Auvil, that the committee found Issue number 1 to be sustained.

A Roll Call vote was taken; Mr. Morris – Yes, Ms. Gordon – Yes, Ms. Auvil – Yes, Mr. Blake – Yes, Mr.

England – Excused, Mr. Taylor – No, Ms. Wharton – No. There were 4 ayes, the motion carries.

Mr. Morris asked for a motion for a finding on the second issue of Complaint #C24-003 on whether Acting Lt. Medlong acted unprofessionally in his interaction with the Complainant?

Ms. Auvil made a motion, seconded by Mr. Taylor, that the committee found Issue number 2 to be unsubstantiated.

A Roll Call vote was taken; Mr. Morris – Yes, Ms. Gordon – Yes, Ms. Auvil – Yes, Mr. Blake – Yes, Mr. England – Excused, Mr. Taylor – Yes, Ms. Wharton – Yes. There were 6 ayes, the motion carries.

Mr. Morris stated that the committee found other findings and concerns when reviewing the complaint, including:

1. Acting Lt. Medlong failed to activate his Body Worn Camera
2. Officer Thornsbury prematurely deactivated his Body Worn Camera.
3. Officer Wagner should have notified the oncoming shift supervisor of the complaint via email.

Based on these additional findings Mr. Morris stated that the committee recommends that Acting Lt. Medlong and Officer Thornsbury receive remedial training on the Body Worn Camera policy and procedures. Further, Officer Wager, while properly de-escalating the call from the Complainant, needs to be reminded that the oncoming supervisor needs to be made aware of the complaint.

Ms. Gordon made a motion, seconded by Ms. Auvil, that the committee agree with the additional findings as written in the final summary C24-003.

A roll call vote was taken; Mr. Morris – Yes, Ms. Gordon – Yes, Ms. Auvil – Yes, Mr. Blake – Yes, Mr. England – Excused, Mr. Taylor – Yes, Ms. Wharton – Yes. There were 6 ayes, the motion carries.

Executive Session Requested

6:16 p.m. It was moved by Ms. Wharton and seconded by Ms. Gordon that the members of the committee suspend rules (H)(1) and (H)(2) of the Operating Procedures of the Civilian Oversight Committee to allow the committee to review and investigate Complaint #C24-004. Roll Call Vote was taken; Mr. Morris – Yes, Ms. Gordon – Yes, Ms. Auvil – Yes, Mr. Blake – Yes, Mr. England – Excused, Mr. Taylor – Yes, Ms. Wharton – Yes. There were 6 ayes, the motion carries.

8:06 p.m. – It was moved by Ms. Wharton and seconded by Ms. Auvil to come out of executive session. A roll call vote was taken; Mr. Morris, Yes; Ms. Gordon, Yes; Ms. Auvil, Yes; Mr. Blake, Yes; Mr. England, Excused; Mr. Taylor, Yes; Ms. Wharton – Yes. There were 6 ayes, the motion carries.

Complaint #C24-004

Mr. Morris stated that there were three issues in complaint #C24-004 and that the Committee would take them one at a time

For issue number 1: Did the officers fail to explain the reason for placing the Complainant in handcuffs? Ms. Gordon made a motion, seconded by Ms. Auvil, that the committee found Issue number 1 to be Exonerated.

A Roll Call vote was taken; Mr. Morris – Yes, Ms. Gordon – Yes, Ms. Auvil – Yes, Mr. Blake – Yes, Mr. England – Excused, Mr. Taylor – Yes, Ms. Wharton – Yes. There are 6 ayes, the motion carries.

For Issue number 2: Did the officers use excessive force in order to place the Complainant in handcuffs?

Ms. Gordon made a motion, seconded by Ms. Auvil, that the committee found Issue number 2 to be Unfounded.

A Roll Call vote was taken; Mr. Morris – Yes, Ms. Gordon – Yes, Ms. Auvil – Yes, Mr. Blake – Yes, Mr. England – Excused, Mr. Taylor – Yes, Ms. Wharton – Yes. There are 6 ayes, the motion carries.

For Issue number 3: Did the officers take \$50.00 in cash out of the Complainants wallet? Mr. Morris made a motion, seconded by Ms. Wharton, that the committee found issue number 3 to be unfounded.

A roll call vote was taken; Mr. Morris – Yes, Ms. Gordon – Yes, Ms. Auvil – Yes, Mr. Blake – Yes, Mr. England – Excused, Mr. Taylor – Yes, Ms. Wharton – Yes. There are 6 ayes, the motion carries.

New Business

Mr. Morris passed out copies of the recent article posted on Cleveland.com about the work the Committee has been doing. He wanted to make sure that everyone got a chance to read the article.

Upcoming Meeting

The next regularly scheduled Civilian Oversight Committee Meeting is Tuesday November 19th, 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. Mr. Morris announced that he would be out on an excused absence for the meeting so Vice-Chair Gordon will be leading the meeting.

Adjourn

8:11 p.m. – It was moved by Ms. Wharton and seconded by Ms. Gordon that the meeting be adjourned. There were six (6) ayes, and none opposed. The meeting was adjourned.

#C24-005



GCRTA Transit Police Department

PUBLIC COMPLAINT FORM

Completed forms can be emailed to TPcomplaints@gcrta.org, mailed to the GCRTA Transit Police Department at ATTN: Transit Police; 1240 West 6th Street, Cleveland, Ohio 44113, or arrangements can be made to deliver the form by calling 216-356-3838. Upon receipt of a completed complaint form, the complaint will be assigned for investigation. Completed investigations will be classified as follows:

- **Sustained**- There is sufficient evidence to establish that the alleged act occurred and constituted misconduct.
- **Sustained in Part**- There is sufficient evidence to establish that one or more, but not all, alleged acts occurred.
- **Sustained for Violation Not Based on the Original Complaint**- There is sufficient evidence to establish that an act of misconduct occurred that was not part of the violations alleged in the Complaint.
- **Unfounded**- The alleged acts did not occur, did not involve Department personnel, or are frivolous.
- **Exonerated**- The alleged acts occurred, but were justified, lawful, and/or proper.
- **Not-sustained**- The facts and circumstances fail to establish if the conduct occurred.
- **Administratively Dismissed**-The complaint is not GCRTA related, does not involve a Transit Police employee, or is related to a service delay that is determined to be unavoidable.

COMPLAINANT

Name Ryan Bethards

Street Address [REDACTED] Apt. [REDACTED]

City [REDACTED] State OH Zip [REDACTED]

Mobile Phone [REDACTED] Home Phone _____ Alt. Phone _____

Email Address [REDACTED] @ [REDACTED]

SUBJECT(S) OF COMPLAINT Name(s), Badge Number(s), or Description(s) of accused personnel:

1. [REDACTED]
2. [REDACTED]
3. _____

WITNESSES (If necessary, give names/phone numbers of additional witnesses in incident detail below)

1. Name _____ Phone Number _____
2. Name _____ Phone Number _____
3. Name _____ Phone Number _____

INCIDENT: Date 5/27/2024 Time 1500 Ticket and/or Report Number 24-23760

Location Euclid Ave / Cornell Rd

Please provide details of the incident and the alleged misconduct, describe any sustained injuries and other facts related to the incident. Do not include unsubstantiated information such as gossip or rumor. Attach additional pages as necessary, including other reports or documentation, photographs, medical records, etc.

Everytime the same officer shows up, he gives me lip. He told me I'm not an RTA employee and to stop with the ridiculous calls. He told me to mind my own business. He tells me he's trying to save me but I have a complaint and he won't take it.

I hereby state under penalty of Perjury (Revised Code 2921.11) that I am the complainant in this complaint, that I have prepared, read, and fully understand all matters set forth in this complaint, that this may result in an official investigation, and the information provided is true and complete to my knowledge.

I understand that filing a false report of misconduct against a Peace Officer is in violation of section 2921.15 of the Ohio Revised Code, a misdemeanor of the first degree.

Reon R. L. L...
Signature of Complainant

05 27 - 2024
Date

Complaint received by:


Printed Name and Signature of Representative Accepting Complaint

5/27/2024
Date

1622
Time

DEPARTMENTAL USE ONLY

Investigating Supervisor _____

Investigative Actions: _____

Approved by _____ Date _____

Civilian Oversight Committee Recommendation:

___ Sustained ___ Sustained in Part ___ Sustained for Violation Not Based on Original Complaint
___ Unfounded ___ Exonerated ___ Non-sustained ___ Administratively Dismissed

Final Determination:

___ Sustained ___ Sustained in Part ___ Sustained for Violation Not Based on Original Complaint
___ Unfounded ___ Exonerated ___ Non-sustained ___ Administratively Dismissed



GCRTA Transit Police Department

#CZ4-006

PUBLIC COMPLAINT FORM

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- **Sustained for Violation Not Based on the Original Complaint-** There is sufficient evidence to establish that an act of misconduct occurred that was not part of the violations alleged in the Complaint.
- **Unfounded-** The alleged acts did not occur, did not involve Department personnel, or are frivolous.
- **Exonerated-** The alleged acts occurred, but were justified, lawful, and/or proper.
- **Not-sustained-** The facts and circumstances fail to establish if the conduct occurred.
- **Administratively Dismissed-**The complaint is not GCRTA related, does not involve a Transit Police employee, or is related to a service delay that is determined to be unavoidable.

COMPLAINANT

Name Adacia Howard Douglas

Street Address [REDACTED] Apt. _____

City [REDACTED] State OH Zip _____

Mobile Phone _____ Home Phone _____ Alt. Phone _____

Email Address [REDACTED]

SUBJECT(S) OF COMPLAINT Name(s), Badge Number(s), or Description(s) of accused personnel:

- White Male officer RTP
- White male officer RTP
- Blac Male officer RTP Front Desk worker

WITNESSES (If necessary, give names/phone numbers of additional witnesses in incident detail below)

- Name _____ Phone Number _____
- Name _____ Phone Number _____
- Name _____ Phone Number _____

Location WLD SUPERIOR 4TH MAIN OFFICE

Please provide details of the incident and the alleged misconduct, describe any sustained injuries and other facts related to the incident. Do not include unsubstantiated information such as gossip or rumor. Attach additional pages as necessary, including other reports or documentation, photographs, medical records, etc.

I was Jump On by 3 male RTA officer Unlawfully handcuffed behind my back. my property Taken Away Cellphone & book bag Then Unlawfully Search. Order to walk into a back room & then locked inside 5-10 minutes in cuffs. The 3 RTA officer fabricated A False Story that I Mr. Douglas had a warrant out for my arrest for the crimes of carrying a concealed weapon, Out of Cuyahoga County. Eventually they released me admitting I had no valid active warrant. They allowed me to sit bac in the original waiting lobby to finish makin my criminal complaint against the [redacted] while sitting down. A bald head white male continued to grab at my property & book bag he ramage threw it after I demanded He stop & leave me alone. he even swated my hand away so he could continue Ramage in threw my book. He was Trying to snatch & grab my private items like cell phone & wallet. I made my oral complaint with all 3 officers. they told me they would investigate & come back another day & they will give me the Warrant Details & case number.

Pt 2. On My 2nd day Wld superior i entered told B/M officer I was there to file criminal report with there department about being criminal Assaulted & battered by him & his 2 white male partners. He Refuse & told me NO! he will not take my complaint and go somewhere else eventually Bald head w/ male officer appeared to also Refuse to allow me to file me criminal complaint they then threat to arrest me and trespassed me from that location. They even came charging at me as if to assault me again if I didnt leave. immediately fear in for my safety I left to avoid being assaulted.

These officer attacked me on both dates to prevent me from lawfully filling Criminal complaints. Against there friends, and themselves.

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Complaint #3 I was assaulted 6-11-24 by a black male bus driver on [redacted] bus stop he ran in my face threatening to fuck my bitch ass & he call me a nigger.

I understand that filing a false report of misconduct against a Peace Officer is in violation of section 2921.15 of the Ohio Revised Code, a misdemeanor of the first degree.

Adria H Douglas
Signature of Complainant

7-17-24
Date

Complaint received by:



Printed Name and Signature of Representative Accepting Complaint

7/17/24
Date

1800
Time

DEPARTMENTAL USE ONLY

Investigating Supervisor _____

Investigative Actions: _____

Approved by _____ Date _____

Civilian Oversight Committee Recommendation:

Sustained Sustained in Part Sustained for Violation Not Based on Original Complaint
 Unfounded Exonerated Non-sustained Administratively Dismissed

Final Determination:

Sustained Sustained in Part Sustained for Violation Not Based on Original Complaint
 Unfounded Exonerated Non-sustained Administratively Dismissed