



PUBLIC COMMENT RESPONSE

June 27, 2023

Public Comment Response:

Public Comment Preamble: The TARC Board values hearing from its customers, TARC employees and public at large. This Board will not respond in this meeting to any comments made at this time. However, TARC will post a response on TARC's website regarding the comments made by the following meeting. In addition, the TARC Board may assign the feedback or comments to be further examined by its subcommittees and, if warranted, further addressed by TARC.

Antonio Wilson

We appreciate hearing from Mr. Wilson about his concerns regarding the proposed changes to the bus routes coming in August. TARC has to make difficult decisions with limited public dollars. Unfortunately, the routes that were cut were low-performing and an inefficient use of precious tax monies. TARC would have certainly liked to have continued service but doing so does not make sense from an efficient and economic perspective.

Jerricka Gidron

Jerricka Gidron shared with the Board the details of the incident that occurred on May 19, 2023. Unfortunately, as is all too tragically common in the Louisville community, Ms. Jerricka was the victim of gun violence while she was operating the bus. TARC's Director of Transportation – the senior most employee within TARC's fixed route operations – notified other TARC staff that he that night. By that point the Ms. Gidron had been discharged, but the Director of Transportation was able to speak with her and her family members as they were leaving the hospital, as well as ATU representation. Two supervisors in the Transportation Department spoke with the Ms. Gidron at home after midnight when she returned. TARC's Executive Director followed up with several calls and texts to Ms. Gidron between Saturday and Monday, though was only able to have a brief conversation. Other senior TARC staff members reached out as well over the weekend and the Transportation Director had a conversation with Ms. Gidron on Saturday morning. TARC staff continue to cooperate closely with LMPD, making all resources available to the investigation, including providing video of the alleged vehicles involved in the incident. In addition to reviewing internal response procedures, TARC will continue with recent stepped up efforts to prevent and mitigate similar situations, where possible. The Safety Department has already increased its security presence at the Union Station campus, our 29th Street facilities and on the streets, where possible. While limited resources mean that security personnel cannot be present everywhere, the Safety Department has launched a program to analyze hot spot areas of passenger disturbances and has deployed resources to be closer to and more visible in those areas. In addition, TARC is exploring the feasibility and cost of having its buses utilize ballistic protection. The Executive Office is in contact with the Mayor's office to identify ongoing and new anti-violence initiatives in which TARC can participate. TARC will continue convening the internal Health and Safety Committee, which includes both unionized and administrative employees, to be a source



of discussion and new ideas moving forward. TARC will also look to advocate for any federal and/or state laws which will provide greater safety for our employees and customers.

The most important immediate priority is supporting Ms. Gidron as she recovers physically and mentally. Like any injury on the job, this incident will be handled through TARC's workers compensation program. TARC also has an Employee Assistance Program with Human Development Company (HDC) that offers professional support and counseling, often a necessity after traumatic events like this one. TARC staff will continue to be available for any assistance Ms. Gidron may need.

Lillian Brents – Union President

Lillian Brents addressed concerns about employees' safety and concerns about the incident that involved Jerricka Gidron. As TARC's Executive Director Carrier Butler shared with the media, this incident unsettled the entire TARC team. That same night TARC's Director of Transportation was able to speak with Ms. Gidron as she was leaving the hospital and two Road Supervisors visited Ms. Gidron at her house after she returned from the hospital around midnight. TARC's Executive Director and TARC's Transportation Director followed up with several calls and texts to Ms. Gidron between Saturday and Monday. TARC share the same concerns that the Union has in regard to gun violence, however TARC has severe limitations in addressing guns being carried on its buses due to KRS 65.870. Despite this impediment, TARC is ready, willing and able to join ATU in any legislative advocacy to change this law if ATU commits to making such an initiative as part of its Kentucky General Assembly agenda. Nevertheless, ultimately, such a change in the law, would not have prevented this incident because this was a stray bullet fired from outside the bus at some other intended target.