

FEB 28 2018

Clerk, U.S. District & Bankruptcy
Courts for the District of Columbia

Renee Ferebee,

Plaintiff,

V.

Metropolitan Area Transit Authority,

Defendant.

Civil Action No. 18-0408 (UNA)

MEMORANDUM OPINION

This matter comes before the court on review of plaintiff's application to proceed *in forma pauperis* and *pro se* civil complaint. The Court will grant the application, and dismiss the complaint without prejudice.

Complaints filed by *pro se* litigants are held to less stringent standards than those applied to formal pleadings drafted by lawyers. *See Haines v. Kerner*, 404 U.S. 519, 520 (1972). Even *pro se* litigants, however, must comply with the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure. *Jarrell v. Tisch*, 656 F. Supp. 237, 239 (D.D.C. 1987). Rule 8(a) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure requires that a complaint contain a short and plain statement of the grounds upon which the Court’s jurisdiction depends, a short and plain statement of the claim showing that the pleader is entitled to relief, and a demand for judgment for the relief the pleader seeks. Fed. R. Civ. P. 8(a). The purpose of the minimum standard of Rule 8 is to give fair notice to the defendants of the claim being asserted, sufficient to prepare a responsive answer, to prepare an adequate defense and to determine whether the doctrine of *res judicata* applies. *Brown v. Califano*, 75 F.R.D. 497, 498 (D.D.C. 1977).

Plaintiff's cause of action appears to have arisen from an encounter with a bus driver who "do[es] not know anything about customer service etiquette." Compl. at 1. The complaint does

not set forth a basis for this Court's jurisdiction, or a valid basis for an award of damages of \$500 million. As drafted, the complaint fails to comply with Rule 8(a), and the Court will dismiss it without prejudice.

An Order consistent with this Memorandum Opinion is issued separately.

DATE:

4/28/18


United States District Judge