



**CITY OF DOVER, DELAWARE
DOVER HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION
Tuesday, September 16, 2025 at 6:10 PM**

City Hall Council Chambers, 15 Lockerman Plaza, Dover, Delaware

AGENDA

VIRTUAL MEETING NOTICE

This meeting will be held in the City Hall Council Chambers with electronic access via WebEx. Public participation information is as follows:

Dial: 1-650-479-3208

Link: <https://rb.gy/58r16m>

Event number: 2534 096 9709

Event password: DOVER (if needed)

If you are new to WebEx, get the app now at <https://www.webex.com/> to be ready when the meeting starts.

Public comments are welcomed on any item and will be permitted at appropriate times. When possible, please notify the City Clerk's Office at 302-736-7008 or cityclerk@dover.de.us should you wish to be recognized.

OPEN FORUM - 10 Minutes Prior to Official Meeting (6:00 p.m.)

The "Open Forum" segment is provided to extend the opportunity to the general public to share their questions, thoughts, comments, concerns, and complaints. Discussion of any item appearing on the agenda is prohibited during the Open Forum as an opportunity will be provided during consideration of that item. Citizen comments are limited to five (5) minutes. The Commission is prohibited from taking action since they are not in official session; however, they may schedule such items as regular agenda items and act upon them in the future.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- 1. Dover Human Relations Commission Meeting of August 19, 2025**

COMMITTEE REPORTS/UPDATES

- 2. Assessment (Ms. Mullen and Dr. Mishoe Sudler, I)**

3. **Community Programs (Mr. Faust and Dr. Mishoe Sudler, I)**
4. **School Programs (Mr. Lott, Ms. White and Dr. Mishoe Sudler, I)**
5. **By-laws (Dr. Mishoe Sudler, I and Ms. White)**
6. **Finance (Dr. Mishoe Sudler, I)**

NEW BUSINESS

7. **Open Discussion**

ADJOURNMENT BY 7:00 P.M.

**To assure that there will be a quorum,
please RSVP by contacting the City Clerk's Office
by email at cityclerk@dover.de.us or by calling 736-7008
as soon as possible.**

THE AGENDA ITEMS AS LISTED MAY NOT BE CONSIDERED IN SEQUENCE. PURSUANT TO 29 DEL. C. §10004(e)(2), THIS AGENDA IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE TO INCLUDE THE ADDITION OR THE DELETION OF ITEMS, INCLUDING EXECUTIVE SESSIONS, WHICH ARISE AT THE TIME OF THE MEETING

DOVER HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION

The Dover Human Relations Commission (DHRC) met on August 19, 2025, at 6:10 p.m., with Chairman Mishoe Sudler presiding. Members present were Mr. Fleming, Mr. Lott, Ms. White, Ms. Brinkley and Mr. Faust. Ms. Mullen was absent

Staff members present were Ms. Walls and Ms. Wheeler.

OPEN FORUM

The Open Forum was held at 6:01 p.m., prior to commencement of the Dover Human Relations Meeting.

Chiara Fox, 420 East Wind Drive, requested that all future meetings also be virtual. She stated that it should be across the board for all Committees, Commissions and boards to have a virtual option. She noted that her organization “Our Voices” will have a meeting on August 22, from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm with a virtual option. The goal of “Our Voices” is to educate, engage and empower parents to be more active in their local governments. “Our Voices” has had prior meetings with the City Council.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Mr. Faust moved for approval of the agenda, seconded by Mr. Fleming, and unanimously carried.

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Mr. Fleming moved to adopt the minutes from the Dover Human Relations Commission (DHRC) meeting on June 17, 2025. The motion was seconded by Mr. Faust and unanimously carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS/UPDATES

Assessment

Chairman Mishoe Sudler stated at this stage, the commission is still in the early phases of returning, creating, moving, and acting. Members recognize the importance of identifying the areas that will be assessed, which include community programs, community outreach initiatives, school outreach efforts, and the commission’s own operations as a body. Chairman Mishoe Sudler explained that to carry out this process, surveys and questionnaires will be composed to ensure public involvement. The assessment will also incorporate specific goals that must be addressed. Before the assessment can be finalized and approved, the commission will need to review it collectively, confirm the accuracy of titles, subtitles, and content, reach an agreement, and then vote on the document. Once completed, the assessment will be presented to City Council for approval and oversight. The commission will also receive guidance from its council liaison, Councilwoman Hall, who will provide input on elements that should be included in the assessment. Chairman Mishoe Sudler noted that they should have a template of the Assessment soon.

Community Programs

Mr. Faust stated that the group has been focusing on fundraising to support community needs. He noted that the commission receives an annual budget allocation of a set amount, which is designated strictly for training, business cards, and other educational purposes for the Human Relations Commissioners. These funds cannot be used for donations such as back-to-school supplies or special

community services. Earlier in the month, an email was sent to City Council and Chairman Mishoe Sudler requesting clarification on fundraising guidelines, including what is permissible, how accountability for funds should be handled, and the process for managing accounts. Currently, the commission is awaiting feedback. Councilwoman Hall may also provide input when available. For now, fundraising efforts remain on hold until clear direction is received. A flyer project was discussed, updated contact numbers are needed, but there have been challenges in obtaining reliable information. Efforts are being made to acquire accurate lists, possibly from the Governor's Office or other official sources, to create a flyer that can be distributed at special meetings and community gatherings to assist citizens.

Mr. Faust explained that he has tried to contact the State Housing Board regarding complaints related to Section 8 housing. Citizens have raised concerns about renter-related safety issues in neighborhoods. A detailed message was left with the board, and follow-up efforts will continue to obtain guidance that can be shared with both the commission and the public. He also reported that representatives from Washington, D.C., attended a recent council meeting to present criminal justice reform, specifically addressing potential rights violations of offenders. Business cards were provided, and follow-up emails were sent with Chairman Mishoe Sudler copied. The commission hopes to establish a learning opportunity, possibly inviting the representatives to speak further. Their presentation was already shared with the Mayor and City Council at the last council meeting.

Responding to Ms. Walls, Mr. Faust noted that he has been seeking up-to-date state and local government contact numbers. Most of the information located so far has been outdated, incomplete, or unreliable, with only a few usable numbers available. He explained that Representative Stone had previously provided a small reference guide listing various state, federal, and local resources. The commission is now working to compile a similar resource list, branded with the Human Relations Commission logo, to distribute to citizens of Dover during meetings or visits as a helpful reference tool.

Responding to Chairman Mishoe Sudler, Mr. Faust explained that a few weeks ago the library nearby hosted an ACLU meeting attended by concerned citizens. The discussion centered on allegations of police brutality. While most participants emphasized that offenders must be held accountable for their actions, they also made clear that they were not anti-police but rather opposed to officers who misuse their authority. The meeting provided an opportunity for citizens to voice their concerns. An attorney who represents individuals in cases against police departments was present, and Ms. Smack, a representative of the ACLU, also spoke. She is expected to speak again at future meetings, which will likely be held at the library. Mr. Faust noted that it was his first time attending an ACLU meeting, and he found it to be informative. He expressed interest in participating in future sessions to learn more.

Chairman Mishoe Sudler noted that he and Mr. Faust have had some contact with the ACLU and believe the organization may become more involved locally, potentially engaging in schools and other community matters in Dover. This could provide the commission and others with the opportunity to ask questions, understand the ACLU's goals, and explore where their support may align with community needs.

Responding to Ms. Brinkley, Mr. Faust stated that he had called the general number for the Delaware State Housing Authority (DSHA), left a message and is waiting for a response. He explained that he is looking for all the information that they possibly can get. He noted that he is unsure of what he is

doing due to this being the first time. He mentioned that he may have to go in person to get a response.

Ms. White reiterated her earlier point that while many young people rely on television, email, and other technology for information, it is often more effective to go in person to the appropriate offices. She noted that Delaware State Housing is located downtown and emphasized the importance of maintaining a paper trail. Many housing-related laws have been revised, she explained, but those changes are not always communicated clearly. She further pointed out that Delaware State Housing Authority (DSHA) is affiliated with Liberty Court, in addition to Dover State Housing. She mentioned there are other housing offices in the area as well and asked whether others were aware of it.

Ms. Brinkley stated that she would provide Mr. Faust with the contact number for Constituent Relations at the Delaware State Housing Authority (DSHA), as well as the number for Dover Housing Authority (DHA), in hopes that the information would be helpful.

Responding to Ms. White, Ms. Brinkley suggested that it would be more effective to contact the Constituent Relations representative, since doing so ensures the interaction is entered into a database, creating a record of the concerns raised. While visiting the office in person would result only in a sign-in sheet noting the visit, the database would document the purpose of the contact and provide a stronger paper trail. However, it was also noted that visiting in person would still allow the opportunity to speak directly with staff if available. Nonetheless, the recommendation was to call the individual whose contact information will be provided.

Chairman Mishoe Sudler highlighted the community meetings that have been held with residents of Barrister's Place, also known to some as Cherry Hill. Since this neighborhood falls within District Two (2), Commissioners White and another District Two (2) commissioner have been directly involved in addressing the issues raised by residents there. The concerns of this community have also been brought before City Council, with citizens voicing opinions and frustrations in the council chambers. As a commission, the Human Relations Commission aims to be proactive and address concerns before they escalate into larger conflicts requiring City Council's direct involvement. Recognizing the seriousness of the issues in Barrister's Place and around the city, the District Two (2) commissioners, along with additional commission members, have organized several small meetings with residents. These meetings have been held at the Luther Village Building II conference room, beginning with just two (2) families and gradually expanding to include about six (6) residents so far. More meetings are planned soon. The commission acknowledged that there are ongoing disagreements and concerns in the neighborhood, particularly regarding recent actions and the city's response. By hosting these sessions, the commission seeks to provide residents with a forum to share their concerns, while also serving as both a listening ear and an advocate on their behalf.

Chairman Mishoe Sudler stated that the commission seeks to create win-win situations, where parties can come to agreement, or at minimum, agree to disagree while still coexisting. Coexistence requires compromise, and some actions in the community have taken place without that necessary compromise with residents. Complaints have been received indicating that there has been little accountability in engaging residents and seeking their input before implementing certain measures. While residents appreciate timely responses, they have expressed frustration when actions are taken without their involvement. Concerns were specifically raised regarding the type of equipment being installed in the neighborhood, particularly surveillance cameras. Residents want to know what types of cameras are

being placed, whether their capabilities risk violating privacy protections, and whether these measures could lead to potential Privacy Act violations. The commission reiterated its commitment to listening to residents' concerns, rather than dictating outcomes. Its role is to provide information, present options, and connect residents with the appropriate resources and officials who can explain proposed actions, such as details on equipment, fencing, or other installations affecting the neighborhood. Ongoing dialogue continues with residents of Barrister's Place. Gratitude was expressed to Ms. White for providing the use of the conference room for these discussions.

Chairman Mishoe Sudler noted that residents from Barrister's Place, as well as other communities, may soon begin requesting that the commission visit their neighborhoods directly. This would allow citizens to share their concerns in familiar settings without feeling targeted or intimidated when coming to City Council chambers. As such, the commission will continue to serve as an outreach body. The importance of following proper procedures was stressed, particularly avoiding the creation of a quorum without adhering to the correct process. The commission hopes residents will bring requests to the podium during open forums, inviting the commissioners to visit their districts. As interest grows, the commission will need to be strategic in responding to requests to ensure all voices are heard. It was further noted that District Two (2) remains a strong focus, but there is opportunity to expand outreach to other neighborhoods. Residents of Barrister's Place remain eager to share their perspectives and seek support. They view their neighborhood as unique and deserving of respect and care.

Mr. Faust noted that a recent meeting was held on Sunday regarding concerns in the neighborhood caused by certain rental properties, including some Section Eight (8) housing. Many of the homes involved were privately owned, but a significant number were rental properties under Section 8. Residents reached out to the commission seeking guidance on how to file legal complaints and what standards landlords are required to meet in cases involving issues such as loud music, trash, or criminal activity. The commission is working to assist residents by obtaining the necessary information from the housing authority. Once received, this information will be shared with all commissioners. The purpose of contacting the housing authority is to clarify the procedures for filing complaints, understand the legal rights of neighborhood residents, and provide guidance regarding issues caused by renters or Section (8) tenants that may impact safety and quality of life in the neighborhood.

Responding to Ms. White, Mr. Faust discussed several steps that need to be taken. The first step involved reaching out to the housing authority. When it comes to landlord situations and rental properties, landlords must be held accountable for issues within their properties. This includes responsibility for tenants, whether the matter involves Section 8 housing or other rentals. If tenants engage in inappropriate or unlawful behaviors such as criminal activity, drug use, poor upkeep, excessive trash, or loud noise, someone must be held responsible. The group recognized the need to thoroughly research the matter to provide accurate information. Ultimately, the citizens who own or rent homes in the neighborhood are entitled to a community that is safe, orderly, and respectful of everyone's rights.

Responding to Ms. White and Mr. Faust, Chairman Mishoe Sudler stated that they have discussed reviewing city ordinances, policies, and legislation to determine how best to address what has been described as an "undesirable tenant" situation. The neighborhood, once made up primarily of homeowners, now consists mostly of rental properties, and complaints have been received about

undesirable activities occurring there. Residents expressed concern and asked what could be done. It was acknowledged that the commission's role is not to make official rulings or resolve such issues directly but rather to inform the public of available avenues and resources. The commission is not a decision-making body but serves to guide and provide information. Several productive meetings have already taken place, and plans are underway to speak with city officials about landlord-tenant codes. The commission intends to report back to residents of Barrister Place with the information gathered. Since many residents do not have access to the landlord-tenant code booklet or reference materials, the commission also plans to advocate for and share relevant portions of those codes and resources with the community.

School Programs

Chairman Mishoe Sudler stated that calls were received regarding the Capital School District, specifically about the release of certain employees. The callers wanted to know how they could file a complaint against the school district. Before the full details were discussed, it was explained that such questions fall outside the commission's scope. The recommendation given was to contact the Delaware Department of Education at the state level for complaints involving a school district. When asked about filing a complaint directly with the district, the matter was treated with caution, as it was considered a sensitive issue.

Responding to Mr. Fleming, Chairman Mishoe Sudler noted that he had mentioned the school board; however, the individuals clarified that the school board itself was also part of their complaint. It was noted that concerns regarding the school district may ultimately need to be addressed through the elected school board. The commission may also receive visitors wishing to discuss issues related to the Capital School District, as complaints have begun to surface. Emphasis was placed on being mindful when addressing matters involving the education system, ensuring that protocols are respected and that no inaccurate information is shared publicly. Members were reminded that accountability is critical when speaking to the public. The commission acknowledged that concerns about the school district are not new and are likely to continue in the future.

Chairman Mishoe Sudler stated that requests had been received from constituents seeking financial support. Appreciation was expressed for the effort to immediately examine the process and determine whether such support could even be provided. While the city operates within a budget, it does not authorize direct donations to programs or individuals simply upon request. However, the city does have designated avenues for such matters, and additional research will be needed at both the city and state levels to identify potential sources of financial support for these types of initiatives. It was further emphasized that many of these efforts will likely require grant funding. To assist constituents, there is a need to connect them with individuals who have experience in establishing and writing grants. While professional grant writing services often come with costs, there are also people willing to volunteer their time and cover their own expenses to help. The key will be identifying and reaching out to those resources on behalf of the community.

Responding to Ms. White, Chairman Mishoe Sudler stated that they can call Delaware State University and inquire whether their College of Business would be able to lend services regarding grant writing.

By-laws

Chairman Mishoe Sudler stated that he does not have an update regarding the by-laws.

Finance

Chairman Mishoe Sudler stated that their currently annual budget is \$3,000. He explained that funds allocated for items such as business cards, training, and administrative processes are already designated by the city for specific purposes and cannot not be disturbed. The reason fundraising was raised as a topic is that, if additional funds can be raised, they could be used to provide extra support to individuals or programs as approved.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Fleming stated that he had observed that while panhandling on street corners and intersections had been present for some time, there has recently been an increase in individuals coming directly into the streets. He told them about an experience he had at Hardee's, where a young woman approached and asked for help purchasing a hamburger. She appeared to have bruises on her face and arm, suggesting she had faced difficult circumstances. After buying her a meal, conversation revealed that she had been evicted due to her boyfriend's actions and was without money, though she possessed credentials that could qualify her for employment. He offered her a 2-1-1 resource card and discussed the services available through 2-1-1 avenues for assistance. He stated that he is running out of the cards, and he needs to see if he can get more.

Responding to Mr. Fleming, Mr. Faust pointed out the 800 number on the card and stated that he would contact 2-1-1 to request additional cards.

Open Discussion

There was nothing discussed.

ADJOURNMENT BY 7:00 P.M.

Chairman Mishoe Sudler moved for adjournment of the Dover Human Relations Commission (DHRC) meeting, hearing no objection, the meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Travis Mishoe Sudler, I
Chair

TMS/aw