



POLICE ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

The Police Advisory Board (PAB) Meeting was held on January 15, 2026 at 7:03 p.m. at the Dover Police Department in the James L. Hutchison Public Assembly Room with Chairperson Rev. Dr. Carol Boggerty presiding. Members of the PAB in attendance were Mr. Waverly Debraux, Mr. Arqum Rashid (arrived at 7:13 pm), Ms. Melynda Cameron and Dr. Charlisa Holloway-Edelin. Dr. Chanda Jackson was absent.

Ex-Officio Members in attendance Chief Thomas A. Johnson, (Dover Police Department) & Deputy Chief David Spicer (Delaware State University). Sergeant Ian Thompson (Dover Police Department) was also present.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Mr. Charles Young addressed the Police Advisory Board regarding the recent increase in Flock Safety license plate reader cameras in the City of Dover. A lifelong Dover resident, he stated that he was surprised by the number of AI-powered license plate readers installed throughout the city upon returning home from college. While expressing general concerns about AI and privacy, he emphasized that his primary objection relates to Flock Safety cameras due to what he described as significant security vulnerabilities within the system.

Mr. Young cited concerns that the cameras are susceptible to unauthorized access, including unsecured networks, exposed USB ports, and operating system vulnerabilities that could allow malware to run undetected. He referenced recent data leaks allegedly exposing elements of the Flock system, including live camera feeds, and noted the existence of publicly available websites that allow individuals to identify camera locations, ownership, and whether a license plate has been flagged.

He further raised concerns about potential misuse of the data, including access by federal agencies despite company assurances, which he stated could place undocumented community members at risk. Mr. Young also expressed concern over misidentification of vehicles, the potential for harm to innocent individuals, and Flock's newly announced AI-based behavioral flagging system. He stated that such systems may exacerbate racial bias and concluded that, in his view, the technology is unsafe and that he and other community members do not feel comfortable being surveilled through it.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Dr. Holloway-Edelin moved to accept the Agenda, seconded by Mr. Debraux and unanimously carried.

ADOPTION OF MINUTES FROM OCTOBER 16, 2025

Dr. Holloway-Edelin moved to accept the Agenda, seconded by Mr. Debraux and unanimously carried.

ADOPTION OF MINUTES FROM NOVEMBER 20, 2025

Dr. Holloway-Edelin moved to accept the Agenda, seconded by Mr. Debraux and unanimously carried.

CITIZEN COMPLAINTS - None Reported

MEMBERSHIP — APPOINTMENTS RECOMMENDED BY MAYOR CHRISTIANSEN - MISS LILLYROSE GRANGER (STUDENT), MR. OTIS HARRIS, JR., MISS AYRUE LIN (STUDENT) & DR. KATERA MOORE

Prior to proceeding with appointments, Rev. Dr. Boggerty welcomed Melynda Cameron to her first official meeting as a member of the Board. Appreciation was expressed for her willingness to serve in a volunteer capacity and for her commitment to the community, with thanks extended for the time and personal sacrifice involved in her service.

Rev. Dr. Boggerty acknowledged the membership appointments recommended by Mayor Christensen, including Miss. LillyRose Granger, Student Representative; Mr. Otis Harris Jr.; Miss Ayrue Lin, Student Representative; and Dr. Katera Moore. All appointees were formally welcomed to the Board. Mr. Rashid moved to accept the membership of the four to serve a modified three year term to expire May 31, 2018, seconded by Mr. DeBraux and unanimously carried.

Rev. Dr. Boggerty welcomed the newly appointed members and invited them to take their seats with the rest of the Board. Appreciation was expressed for their willingness to serve the City in a volunteer capacity, acknowledging the time and personal sacrifice involved in contributing to the betterment of the community.

YOUTH

Miss Lin addressed the Board regarding the importance of building a foundation of trust between youth and law enforcement. She stated that many students' initial interactions with police occur during disciplinary situations or crises, rather than moments of support, and emphasized that trust is essential for prevention rather than reaction. When students feel respected and understood, they are more likely to seek help, be honest, and de-escalate situations before they worsen.

Miss Lin shared that students report carrying significant adult-level expectations, including high academic demands, college preparation, extracurricular involvement, employment, and family responsibilities, often with little opportunity for mental or emotional recovery. She explained that sustained stress contributes to emotional outbursts, poor decision-making, and school incidents, and encouraged consideration of trauma-informed approaches that account for mental and economic stress in student discipline and expectations.

She also discussed student substance use, noting that reported data likely underrepresents the true scope of the issue, as many students use substances or skip classes as coping mechanisms for stress and peer pressure. Ms. Lynn emphasized that trust and confidentiality are critical for encouraging students to seek help rather than hide struggles. She highlighted plans through her mental health club, Youth for Mental Wellness, to partner with community programs to provide workshops on healthy coping strategies, and encouraged Board and community support for preventive resources. In closing, she stressed that students want to be treated as individuals worth investing in, and that listening to youth voices, building trust, and providing supportive resources are essential to creating safer and healthier schools.

Miss Granger added to the discussion regarding student marijuana use and its impact within the community. She reported interviewing students about why teens turn to marijuana, potential strategies to reduce usage, and community activities that could help address the issue. The feedback indicated that peer pressure and stress-related coping were the primary factors influencing teen marijuana use, reinforcing earlier points about the connection between substance use and mental health challenges.

Students suggested the need for safer, non-punitive spaces where they can access therapists and counselors and learn healthier coping strategies. They also emphasized the importance of expanded community programming and year-round activities to provide positive outlets for youth. It was noted that increased access to constructive events and engagement opportunities could reduce boredom and peer pressure, thereby helping to mitigate substance use among teenagers.

Dr. Moore raised questions regarding how discipline is handled in schools and the role of law enforcement, particularly in cases involving tobacco or substance use. Chief Johnson explained that School Resource Officers (SROs) receive extensive supplemental training and function as part of the educational team. He noted that approximately 90–95% of student behavioral issues are handled administratively under the school code of conduct, rather than through enforcement actions. Arrests typically occur only in cases involving serious violence or significant injury, and personal-use drug offenses are generally addressed administratively unless involving large quantities or distribution.

Chief Johnson and Sergeant Thompson further explained that SROs may utilize youth civil citations and diversion programs, which are non-criminal in nature and often include counseling or other corrective requirements. Upon successful completion of these programs, records are cleared, allowing students to avoid lasting criminal consequences. These approaches are intended to prioritize student well-being and long-term success over punitive measures.

A question was also raised regarding a potential increase in student marijuana use following broader legalization. Chief Johnson indicated that while anecdotal observations exist, he would follow up with available and validated data, noting that much student conduct data is handled administratively and may not appear in law enforcement databases. It was suggested, and agreed, that once validated, relevant data be shared with student representatives to better inform discussions within schools.

Additional discussion included a recommendation that student representatives meet with their SROs to better understand their roles, responsibilities, and available supports within the school environment. The Board also inquired about the student mental health club, and Miss Lin explained that the initiative partners with Work to Be Well, supported by Providence Creek, a national student-led nonprofit that provides curricula aimed at expanding mental health education throughout the school and eventually into the broader community.

COMMUNITY MEETING UPDATES

Rev. Dr. Boggerty asked that the potential for live streaming for the Police Advisory Board Meetings be placed on the next meeting Agenda.

Dr. Moore inquired about how Police Advisory Board meetings are advertised and how the public is informed of meeting dates and attendance opportunities. Staff explained that meetings are listed on the City of Dover website calendar, the Dover Police Department website, and are promoted through reminder posts on the Department's Facebook page. Dr. Moore noted that, based on professional experience in public engagement, reliance on websites alone may limit public awareness and suggested that additional, more intentional outreach methods be considered to improve community engagement and strengthen relationships between the police and the public.

In response, Mr. DeBraux explained that community surveys conducted over the past two years indicated Facebook as the public's preferred method for receiving information. These surveys were administered at community events such as National Night Out and school-related outreach events, as well as through online surveys connected to accreditation processes. Chief Johnson noted that the Department's Facebook page has significant reach and has proven effective in promoting community events and ensuring public participation, while website postings ensure legal compliance for public notice requirements. Chief Johnson agreed that expanded outreach could be considered.

Mr. Rashid requested to add future discussion of AI camera systems to a subsequent meeting agenda.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Major Spicer stated that there were no major announcements at this time. It was reported that the first part of the academic year was successful, highlighted by a strong performance from the football team. The spring semester commenced earlier in the week, and the University is optimistic for a productive remainder of the academic year and the upcoming commencement.

Dr. Holloway-Edelin provided remarks aligning with earlier discussion on mental health and substance use. She noted a significant increase in marijuana use among college students and stated that DSU Police, under Deputy Chief Spicer, emphasize community policing and student support. Most incidents involving personal-use substances are handled through warnings or administrative processes rather than arrest, consistent with DSU's role as an educational institution focused on helping students make better choices.

Dr. Holloway-Edelin also reported a notable uptick in dating violence on campus, involving both increased incidents and increased reporting. In response, DSU conducted educational programming for approximately 900 students prior to Thanksgiving and plans to expand these efforts in February with a focus on healthy relationships, safety, and decision-making. She noted that grant funding under the Violence Against Women Act has supported expanded outreach, reporting resources, and awareness campaigns, including attention to underreported cases involving male victims.

Discussion followed regarding collaboration between DSU student affairs and law enforcement, emphasizing regular communication, case reviews, and prevention-focused strategies. Chief Johnson highlighted existing law enforcement tools, including lethality assessment protocols and Lethal Violence Protective Orders (LVPOs), which could be adapted for educational settings. It was suggested that existing student programming, such as Greek life education, could be leveraged to incorporate safety, behavioral awareness, and law enforcement engagement in a manner that supports prevention and student well-being.

Chief Johnson provided an update regarding an upcoming Strategic Vision presentation for the Dover Police Department, scheduled for January 22, 2026 at 5:30 pm at City Hall. The presentation is intended to educate elected and administrative officials on the Department's progress, current status, and future goals in alignment with the broader 2030 vision for Dover. He noted that the presentation contains valuable information relevant to the Advisory Board, particularly for newer members who may not have had prior exposure to departmental overview sessions.

Chief Johnson highlighted that this session could count as three hours toward the 20-hour training requirement for Advisory Board members under Delaware regulations. He emphasized that the presentation will be more dynamic and engaging than traditional classroom sessions, offering an overview of the Department's operations, initiatives, and strategic priorities, while providing members with a comprehensive understanding of the Department's service goals over the next several years.

Chief Johnson addressed the Board regarding Mr. Young's concerns surrounding the use of AI technologies, such as Flock Safety cameras, acknowledging that while there may be differing perspectives, the policing profession shares similar concerns about security, privacy, and appropriate data use. He noted that these discussions are ongoing within law enforcement, though not always public, and emphasized that local policing priorities—such as preserving life and protecting the community—remain distinct from immigration enforcement.

He highlighted the potential benefits of these technologies in addressing violent crime, gun violence, and missing persons, while stressing the need to use such tools responsibly and constitutionally. Chief Johnson expressed

openness to continued dialogue with the Board, noting that understanding community concerns enhances his ability to advocate for responsible, effective use of technology both within the profession and in legislative discussions.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm

Attachments

#1 - Minutes from October 16, 2025 Workshop Meeting

#2 - Minutes from November 20, 2025 Workshop Meeting