



POLICE ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

The Police Advisory Board (PAB) Meeting was held on March 19, 2026 at 7:05 p.m. at the Dover Police Department in the James L. Hutchison Public Assembly Room with Chairperson Dr. Chanda Jackson presiding. Members of the PAB in attendance were Mr. Otis Harris, Jr., Miss LillyRose Granger, Miss Ayrue Lin, Dr. Charlisa Holloway-Edelin, Ms. Melynda Cameron and Mr. Waverly Debraux (arrived at 7:07pm). Rev. Dr. Carol Boggerty & Dr. Katera Moore were 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 – No Public Comments

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Dr. Charlisa Holloway-Edelin moved to accept the Agenda, seconded by Ms. Melynda Cameron and unanimously carried.

ADOPTION OF JANUARY 15, 2026 MINUTES

Dr. Charlisa Holloway-Edelin moved to accept the Agenda, seconded by Miss LillyRose Granger and unanimously carried.

CITIZEN COMPLAINTS

Dr. Jackson stated, for the record, the Board received one complaint during the month. After review, it was determined that, due to the nature of the complaint, it was not appropriate for Board consideration. This statement is entered to ensure the matter is formally documented and acknowledged in the record.

COMMUNITY MEETING UPDATES

Miss Granger reported that a student-led ICE walkout was well-organized and successful, with strong participation from students and supportive involvement from staff, contributing to a respectful and smoothly conducted event.

Ms. Cameron announced an upcoming community event, Family Emergency Preparedness Day, scheduled for Saturday, September 12, at Brecknock Park. The event was noted as a valuable opportunity to engage with the community and demonstrate support. While full details are not yet available, Ms. Cameron advised that additional information will be obtained. A request was also made for a flyer for the event, should one become available.

Dr. Jackson reported that Capital School District's annual Super Senator Day event is scheduled for April 18. The event serves as a community celebration and will include participation from various vendors and organizations, including PAL, the fire department, and other community groups. The event is anticipated to take place from approximately 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., though the exact time is to be confirmed. Attendees were encouraged to participate and support the Capital School District.

Chief Johnson announced that the Police Athletic League will host an Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, March 28, at Leg Mall. The event is expected to take place around midday; additional details will be provided as they become available.

Ms. Cameron announced that the Fifth Annual Rally for First Responders will be held on May 30 at Hudson Fields, with a scheduled time of approximately 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. It was noted that while certain portions of the event may occur within that timeframe, the overall event may extend beyond those hours. Additional information, including a flyer, will be provided when available.

The event is anticipated to be a large community gathering, with participation from various public safety agencies. It was further noted that a recruiting table, members of the Community Policing Unit, and K-9 units are expected to be present. Attendees were encouraged to consider participating.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Deputy Chief Spicer (DSU Police) and Dr. Holloway-Edelin reported that Delaware State University is preparing for commencement, which is scheduled for May 15, with staff, faculty, and students looking forward to the event. He also noted that DSU will host the DIAA High School Basketball Championships on March 1, an event expected to draw strong attendance and excitement. Deputy Chief Spicer added that Dover High School is currently ranked number one in the state and may participate in the championship.

Chief Johnson announced that the upcoming Police Athletic League (PAL) Easter event is being actively coordinated, with efforts focused on providing a positive and engaging experience for participating youth. The event will feature an Easter egg hunt along with a variety of activities and attractions, including face painting, a caterpillar car, tricycles, food trucks, and a visit from the Easter Bunny. Recognition was given to Corporal Melissa Ragona for her dedication and enthusiasm in organizing community events. It was noted that the event is approaching soon, and continued support and participation were encouraged to ensure its success.

Chief Johnson reported that he attended the national CALEA conference in Tucson and that the agency successfully achieved reaccreditation through the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies for the ninth time, following its four-year review cycle. The achievement reflects the collective efforts of agency personnel, whose work ensures continued compliance with established standards. It was noted that, while leadership participates in the formal review process, the successful outcome is the result of agency-wide commitment and performance. Further explanation was provided regarding the accreditation process, which includes annual remote assessments requiring documented proof of compliance with policies and procedures, as well as a comprehensive on-site evaluation conducted every four years. This evaluation includes facility inspections, staff and stakeholder interviews, and the development of a formal report. It was noted that the report may be released as part of a broader public announcement recognizing the agency's accreditation status. It was also discussed that, following recent police reform legislation, Delaware is working toward becoming the first state in the nation to require accreditation for all law enforcement agencies. While larger agencies may pursue national accreditation, smaller agencies often work toward state-level accreditation due to differences in resources and operational scope. Significant progress has been made statewide, with nearly all agencies either accredited or actively engaged in the accreditation process, reflecting strong compliance with statutory requirements. Additionally, it was noted that advisory and accountability structures have been widely implemented across agencies, with approximately 98% participation. One remaining agency, which operates across state lines, faces unique administrative challenges due to dual governance requirements. Overall, the progress toward full accreditation and oversight compliance across the state was described as both notable and encouraging. In response to a question regarding agency size classifications, it was explained that designations such as small, mid-size, and large agencies generally depend on the number of sworn personnel rather than geographic coverage. As a general guideline, small agencies may include up to approximately 50–75 officers, mid-size agencies range up to several hundred officers, and large agencies exceed that range, reflecting increased operational complexity.

Dr. Holloway-Edelin reported that the dating violence prevention program at Delaware State University has been successful, reaching approximately 1,500 students to date and contributing to a reduction in related incidents. Continued collaboration with Dover Police and partner agencies has also increased officer presence on campus, which has positively impacted overall safety and reinforced community policing efforts. It was noted that students are becoming more comfortable engaging with officers and are more likely to report concerns.

Additionally, it was reported that signage has been installed throughout campus buildings to clearly communicate that weapons are prohibited. Under the leadership of Deputy Chief Spicer, Chief Donald Baynard, and Superintendent James Overton, ongoing efforts are being made to enhance campus safety. It was emphasized that safety remains the top concern among students, and increased visibility of officers and proactive safety measures have helped foster a greater sense of security and support a positive learning environment.

Dr. Jackson reminded the Board that those who still need to complete the required 20 hours may do so by attending the presentation following the meeting, during which Chief Johnson will provide information that qualifies toward fulfilling this requirement.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:27 pm