



## POLICE ADVISORY BOARD WORKSHOP MEETING

The Police Advisory Board (PAB) Workshop Meeting was held on October 16, 2025 at 6:19 p.m. at the Dover Police Department in the James L. Hutchison Public Assembly Room with Mrs. Courtney Ford presiding. Members of the PAB in attendance were. Mr. Robby Sheehan, Mr. Waverly Debraux. & Mr. Arqum Rashid. Dr. Chanda Jackson, Rev. Dr. Carol Boggerty, & Dr. Charlisa Holloway-Edelin were absent.

Ex-Officio Members in attendance Captain Randy Robbins (on behalf of Chief Thomas A. Johnson), & Sgt. Ian Thompson (Dover Police Department). Chief Donald Baynard (Delaware State University) and Chief Thomas A. Johnson, Jr. (Dover Police Department) were absent. .

### **PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

Mr. Rob Vanella, facilitator for Neighbors Organized for Credibility and Accountability in Policing (NO CAP), thanked the board for opening a dialogue and fostering connections between community organizations and the broader Dover community. He expressed appreciation for board members who attended NO CAP's September town hall and invited members to upcoming events, including a *Know Your Rights* panel on Tuesday, October 21, at the library, and a *community meet-and-greet* on Saturday, October 25, in the lot adjacent to Holy Trinity AME. A *Public Safety Town Hall* is also planned for early November at the library.

Mr. Vanella emphasized the importance of transparency in community engagement and thanked the board for clarifying that participation in community events does not constitute official board business. He reiterated NO CAP's shared commitment to openness and collaboration and encouraged continued dialogue, offering to be available for follow-up discussions or questions.

Mrs. Courtney Ford confirmed attendance at the October 25 meet-and-greet. Mr. Vanella added that the event will include outreach activities and coordination with other community groups to promote the November town hall and encourage broader public involvement in local safety initiatives.

Mr. Chris Asay (League of Women Voters) raised three questions for the board. First, Ms. Asay sought clarification on whether a quorum of board members may attend community town halls without violating open meeting requirements. The board confirmed that all members may attend such events, provided that proper public notice of a potential quorum is posted in advance. Members were reminded to communicate attendance intentions to staff so that a notice can be issued in accordance with public meeting laws.

Second, Ms. Asay inquired about the "Citizen Complaints" section of the agenda, asking from what sources these complaints are drawn. The board clarified that citizen complaints discussed during meetings originate from submissions made through the official complaint form available on the board's website. Ms. Asay asked whether informal communications, such as conversations between residents and board members or media reports, are included in this section. The board explained that such interactions are not automatically recorded as complaints; rather, community members are encouraged to submit formal complaints through the designated form or share concerns during the public comment period.

Finally, Mr. Asay suggested that the board consider establishing a Community Engagement Committee to focus on public outreach. She emphasized the importance of ensuring that residents are aware of the board's work, have opportunities to participate, and understand how to file complaints or share input. *\*It was mentioned that a Community Engagement topic is sometimes included on the workshop agenda but was omitted from this meeting's agenda due to time constraints.*

## **ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

Mr. Robbie Sheehan moved to accept the Agenda, seconded by Mr. Waverly Debraux. and unanimously carried.

**CITIZEN COMPLAINTS** Bruce & Roylene Marvel inquired about the types of citizen complaints accepted by the board, asking whether they include complaints against police officers, city-related issues, or both. The board explained that citizen complaints can be submitted through the form available on the Police Advisory Board website, which directs submissions to the board's designated email inbox. It was noted that the board has not limited the type of complaints received and welcomes any community feedback.

Mr. Marvel raised a concern regarding neighborhood safety. He reported that minors frequently ride motorized bikes and scooters at high speeds through the alley between West and Carrol Streets, failing to stop at intersections and posing a risk to drivers and pedestrians. Mr. Marvel noted that similar incidents have already resulted in accidents in nearby areas and expressed frustration that police response times make enforcement difficult.

Board members thanked Mr. Marvel for bringing the issue forward and confirmed that his concern represents the type of matter appropriate for a citizen complaint submission or discussion during the public comment period. Law enforcement representatives present at the meeting acknowledged the concern and indicated that such matters may be challenging to address without direct observation by officers, but having the address of the minor helps a lot in addressing the complaints.

## **MEMBERSHIP – APPLICATION REVIEW**

**DENISE DUDLEY**

**MELYNDA A. CAMERON**

**OTIS HARRIS**

Mrs. Courtney Ford advised that Mr. Otis Harris had withdrawn his application for board membership. Two applicants, Denise Dudley and Melinda Cameron, remained under consideration. Application materials were previously distributed by Rebecca McNamara and included in the meeting packet.

It was noted that the applications had been discussed at the prior meeting, during which members agreed to postpone the vote to ensure all current members had the opportunity to review them. The prior discussion confirmed that the applicants would fulfill the membership category requirements, and no concerns or objections had been raised.

Mr. Robby Sheehan moved to accept Denise Dudley and Melinda Cameron as members of the Police Advisory Board, pending criminal history checks and approval by Mayor Robin R. Christiansen, seconded by Mr. Waverly Debraux and unanimously carried. Mr. Sheehan expressed support, noting both candidates' strong backgrounds and extensive community volunteer experience. Mr. Arqum Rashid asked that all future applications that were shared with the Board have the social security numbers redacted.

## **YOUTH**

Mrs. Courtney Ford reported that two Dover High School students had expressed interest in joining the Police Advisory Board, which was received positively as an encouraging sign of youth engagement. However, only one high school student seat is currently designated on the board. Neither student has yet submitted a formal application.

The students suggested two potential options: both serving concurrently as board members or alternating terms, with each serving for six months. The chair noted that the students appeared interested in participating together for mutual support, recognizing that joining the board and engaging with law enforcement can be an intimidating experience for high school representatives.

Board members expressed support for making an exception to allow both students to serve, emphasizing the value of youth enthusiasm and civic involvement.

Mr. Arqum Rashid moved add to the next full board agenda an amendment to Resolution 24-01 to allow for more than one designated high school student seat on the board, seconded by Mr. Robby Sheehan and unanimously carried.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Mrs. Courtney Ford announced that Senator's Day will be held on Saturday, April 18, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at Dover High School. The event serves as a community celebration and outreach opportunity and that Senator's Day would be an excellent event for the board's participation. Although the event is six months away, it falls within the next five board meetings, and planning should begin early to ensure meaningful involvement.

Members were encouraged to consider adding community events such as Senator's Day to the board's upcoming activities to strengthen outreach and visibility within the community.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 6:53 p.m.