



## POLICE ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

The Police Advisory Board (PAB) Meeting was held on May 21, 2026 at 7:11 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 Rev. Dr. Carol Boggerty Miss LillyRose Granger, Miss Ayrue Lin., Mr. Waverly DeBraux & Ms. Dominique Dixon. Ms. Melynda Cameron, Dr. Katera Moore. Mr. Otis Harris, Jr. & Dr. Charlisa Holloway-Edelin were absent.

Ex-Officio Member in attendance was Chief Thomas A. Johnson, Jr. Sergeant Ian Thompson (Dover Police Department) also attended.

**PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD - No Public Comment**

### **ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

Ms. Dominique Dixon moved to accept the Agenda, seconded by Mr. Waverly DeBraux and unanimously carried.

### **ADOPTION OF REVISED FEBRUARY 19, 2026 MEETING MINUTES**

Mr. Waverly DeBraux moved to accept the revised February 19, 2026 minutes, seconded by Miss Lillyrose Granger and unanimously carried.

### **ADOPTION OF MARCH 19, 2026 MEETING MINUTES**

Ms. Dixon moved to table the March 19, 2026 Meeting Minutes to clarify the date of the DIAA High School Basketball Championships, seconded by Dr. Carol Boggerty and unanimously carried.

**CITIZEN COMPLAINTS - None Reported**

### **MEMBERSHIP – JORDAN DAVIS – DELAWARE STATE UNIVERSITY STUDENT**

Mr. Jordan Davis introduced himself as a rising sophomore at Delaware State University, where he is majoring in Accounting with a minor in Financial Planning and Wealth Management. He shared that he currently works in the Office of the President at Delaware State University as a student receptionist. In addition, he serves as a member of the Judicial Affairs Advisory Committee and is also a student representative on the Strategic Planning Executive Committee, which is responsible for helping guide the university's five-year strategic planning efforts. Mr. DeBraux moved to accept the application of Mr. Jordan Davis for membership on the Police Advisory Board pending recommendation by Mayor Robin Christiansen, seconded by Ms. Dixon and unanimously approved.

### **TERM RECONSIDERATION FOR TERMS EXPIRING MAY 31, 2026**

**REV. DR. CAROL BOGGERTY**

**MR. WAVERLY DEBRAUX**

**DR. CHANDA JACKSON**

Chief Thomas A. Johnson, Jr. assumed the role of chair for the term reconsideration portion of the meeting due to potential conflicts involving the chair and co-chair, as required by the board bylaws. He explained that pursuant to Article III, Section III of the bylaws, members whose terms expire on May 31, 2026, were eligible for reconsideration during the May business meeting. Members with expiring terms were asked to declare their intentions regarding continued service on the board, and any applications on file would receive equal consideration for the upcoming three-year term. Chief Johnson further advised that the board previously established a permanent designated seat for a Delaware State University student representative, and that Jordan Davis' application was submitted in furtherance of that designated position. Mrs. Rebecca McNamara, Office

Administrator and Assistant to the Chief of Police confirmed that, aside from Mr. Davis' application, there were no additional pending applications on file for board consideration.

Reverend Dr. Carol Boggerty, Mr. Waverly DeBraux, and Dr. Chanda Jackson each expressed their desire to continue serving on the board. Separate motions were conducted for each member's reconsideration and reappointment due to parliamentary procedure requirements and voting limitations. Motions were made, seconded, and unanimously approved for the reappointment of Dr. Chanda Jackson (Ms. Dixon/Dr. Boggerty), Reverend Dr. Carol Boggerty (Ms. Dixon/Dr. Jackson), and Mr. Waverly DeBraux (Ms. Dixon/Dr. Boggerty) to additional three-year terms on the board. Chief Johnson confirmed for the record that each candidate abstained from voting on their own appointment.

Following the approvals, Chief Johnson clarified that the reappointed members' terms would expire in May 2029. He also explained that while board terms are typically three years in length, individuals appointed to fill vacancies occurring midterm may serve only the remainder of the unexpired term in order to maintain the board's staggered rotation structure. Control of the meeting was then returned to Dr. Jackson.

#### **DISCUSSION ON THE PURPOSE OF THE DOVER POLICE ADVISORY BOARD**

The Board engaged in a discussion regarding the purpose and function of the Dover Police Advisory Board, particularly as it relates to community engagement, policy review, training, and citizen concerns. Dr. Jackson explained that the discussion was intended to provide clarity regarding the Board's role and to help the community better understand the types of concerns and complaints that may appropriately be brought before the Board. She noted that while the Board is not a governing body responsible for disciplinary decisions, it serves an advisory role in supporting policy development, training review, and strengthening communication between the Dover Police Department and the community.

Chief Johnson provided an overview of the Board's responsibilities under House Bill 206 and the Delaware Police Accountability Committee (PAC) framework. He explained that all police departments in Delaware are now required to maintain a police accountability committee and noted that the Dover Police Advisory Board served as a model for much of the legislation due to its early establishment and continued efforts. Chief Johnson emphasized that the Board's primary purpose is to advise the Department on policies, training, and community concerns, while disciplinary matters, internal investigations, hiring decisions, and personnel matters remain administrative functions outside the Board's authority. He also highlighted the importance of Board member training and encouraged members to continue serving as liaisons between the Department and the community by bringing forward concerns, questions, and feedback gathered through community interaction.

Chief Johnson further discussed the challenges associated with compliance under Delaware's Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), explaining that the increased procedural requirements have limited some of the Board's previous flexibility, including the use of subcommittees and informal working meetings. Despite these limitations, he reaffirmed the value of the Board's input and reviewed several past accomplishments, including the Board's involvement in the development of the Department's Behavioral Health Unit and implementation of the body-worn camera program. He encouraged members to remain engaged and emphasized that the Board continues to play a meaningful role in shaping Department policies, procedures, training initiatives, and technology discussions.

Board members also shared concerns regarding attendance, public participation, and the perception of the Board within the community. Members expressed frustration regarding the limitations created by FOIA requirements but reaffirmed their commitment to continuing the Board's work and maintaining active participation.

Suggestions were made to incorporate regular policy reviews and training discussions into future workshop meetings to encourage engagement and provide opportunities for meaningful dialogue.

Additional discussion focused on community concerns regarding policing and the ways in which those concerns are communicated. Members acknowledged that many residents express concerns through social media and informal conversations rather than through formal complaint processes. Board members discussed the importance of remaining present and engaged within the community, listening to concerns, and identifying opportunities to connect those concerns to policy discussions and training review. Members also emphasized the importance of improving communication with the public regarding the Board's purpose and role within the community.

#### **COMMUNITY CONCERNS REGARDING POLICING (REV. DR. CAROL BOGGERTY)**

The Board continued its discussion regarding community concerns surrounding policing and the role of the Dover Police Advisory Board in addressing those concerns. Members emphasized the importance of discussing issues that are actively being raised within the community, even when concerns are not submitted through formal complaint channels. It was noted that while formal citizen complaints had not recently appeared on meeting agendas, Board members continue to hear concerns through community engagement, social media interactions, and conversations with residents. Members expressed that acknowledging and discussing generalized community concerns could strengthen public confidence in the Board and demonstrate that the Board remains engaged, present, and responsive to community sentiment.

Discussion also focused on connecting community concerns to Department policy and training review. Dr. Jackson suggested that future discussions surrounding public concerns could be paired with relevant departmental policies to better align discussions with the Board's advisory role. Members agreed that reviewing policies related to recurring community concerns would provide opportunities for productive dialogue, increased transparency, and a better understanding of how policies impact day-to-day policing within the community. Members also noted that incorporating policy review into future workshop meetings may encourage greater participation from both Board members and community residents.

Board members further discussed the challenges associated with community engagement and the public complaint process. It was observed that many residents express concerns through social media and informal public discussion rather than through formal reporting channels. Members noted that while residents frequently voice opinions online or in person, many community members may not fully understand how to properly submit concerns or may not feel comfortable doing so through formal processes. Members stressed the importance of improving communication with the public regarding the Board's role, responsibilities, and available avenues for community engagement.

Additional discussion addressed the Board's responsibility to remain engaged with issues impacting the community, even when those issues do not involve formal complaints. Members reflected on prior public concerns involving the Police Department and acknowledged that, in some situations, the Board may have opportunities to provide information, context, or reassurance to the community through advisory discussions or public statements. Members emphasized that the Board's role includes not only advising the Police Department, but also serving as a bridge between the Department and the community.

Mrs. McNamara provided clarification regarding agenda procedures and advised that "Community Concerns Regarding Policing" could remain as a standing agenda item, which would allow members to discuss general concerns heard within the community while remaining compliant with public notice and FOIA requirements. Members discussed the importance of providing sufficient notice for more detailed or specific topics so that

appropriate research, policies, and supporting information could be prepared in advance for workshop discussions.

Chief Johnson reiterated his willingness to assist the Board in preparing for future discussions by providing policy information, legal context, case law, Department of Justice guidance, and operational perspectives related to topics raised by the community. He emphasized that many policing decisions are governed by constitutional requirements, state law, case law, and Department procedures, and that providing this context could help Board members better understand and explain police operations to the public. Chief Johnson encouraged members to identify topics of concern in advance whenever possible so the Department could provide comprehensive information and facilitate informed discussion during future meetings.

#### **COMMUNITY MEETING UPDATES/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Announcements were shared regarding upcoming meetings and events within the community. Members were informed that the Capital School District would hold a special Board of Education meeting on Tuesday, May 26, 2026 at 5:30 p.m. It was explained that the meeting would begin in open session with an opportunity for public comment before entering executive session, after which any necessary public votes would be conducted. The Board was also advised that the Capital School District's next regular meeting would be held on June 17.

Chief Johnson extended an invitation to Board members to attend the upcoming Police Academy graduation ceremony scheduled for Friday, June 5, at Delaware State University. He noted that this would be the Academy's tenth session and recognized the Board's prior contributions toward the development of the Academy curriculum. Chief Johnson stated that the graduating class would be one of the largest since the program's inception and encouraged members to attend if available.

Additional discussion included announcements regarding personnel changes within the Department. Chief Johnson shared that Sergeant Ian Thompson would be transitioning into a training role associated with the Police Academy as part of his professional development. It was explained that the Academy Director role is overseen by the Professional Standards Captain, while the assigned sergeant coordinates much of the day-to-day Academy operations and training activities.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 8:36 pm