



POLICE ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

The Police Advisory Board (PAB) Meeting was held on July 16, 2026 at 7:01 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, Mr. Jordan Davis, Mr. Waverly DeBaux, Ms. Dominique Dixon, Miss LillyRose Granger, Ms. Melynda Cameron, & Dr. Charlisa Holloway-Edelin. Miss Ayrue Lin & Dr. Katera Moore were absent.

Ex Officio Members in attendance - Chief Thomas A. Johnson, Jr. (Dover Police Department) & Chief Donald Baynard (Delaware State University). Sergeant Jennifer Lynch (Dover Police Department) also attended.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD – No Public Comments

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

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

ADOPTION OF JUNE 18, 2026 MEETING MINUTES

Miss Lillyrose Granger moved to accept the June 18, 2026 Meeting Minutes, seconded by Mr. DeBaux and unanimously carried.

CITIZEN COMPLAINTS – No Complaints

COMMUNITY CONCERNS REGARDING POLICING

The Board engaged in a discussion regarding recent community concerns surrounding policing and the impact of several widely circulated incidents occurring throughout the state, including one incident that took place within Dover but not in the jurisdiction of the Dover Police Department. Members emphasized the importance of acknowledging these concerns and ensuring the public understands that the Board is actively discussing issues affecting community trust and public safety.

Board members noted that community members often associate incidents occurring within city limits with the local police department, regardless of the agency involved. As a result, members agreed that it is important to communicate clearly with the public regarding the Board's awareness of these matters and its commitment to fostering transparency and dialogue.

Dr. Charlisa Holloway-Edelin, Delaware State University shared that, although a separate incident involving university students occurred outside of Dover and outside the academic calendar, the University proactively met with the students and their guardians to reinforce expectations of responsible conduct and community engagement. Members agreed that highlighting these types of collaborative efforts demonstrates a shared commitment among community stakeholders to maintaining positive relationships and protecting civil rights.

The Board discussed several possible methods of engaging the community, including issuing a public statement, drafting an open letter, or hosting a dedicated public forum focused on community-police relations. Members agreed that such an event would provide an opportunity to acknowledge current community concerns, clarify the Board's advisory role, explain the City's philosophy of community policing, and strengthen relationships between residents, the Dover Police Department, Delaware State University, and other community partners.

A proposal was made for a small planning group to develop recommendations for a community forum and present a plan, including potential dates, at the Board's August meeting. The goal would be to hold the event in September,

subject to compliance with public meeting requirements and applicable notice provisions. Members also discussed procedural considerations related to quorum requirements and the need to properly advertise any special meeting or public forum.

Board members further noted that previous discussions had identified a need for greater public awareness of the Police Advisory Board's purpose and responsibilities. Members agreed that a community forum would provide an opportunity to increase visibility, educate residents about the Board's role, and demonstrate the Board's commitment to addressing community concerns through constructive dialogue.

In response to an inquiry regarding any local impacts resulting from the recent incidents, the Chief Thomas A. Johnson, Jr. (DPD), reported that there had been no known unrest or public safety concerns within the City of Dover related to these events. The Chief advised that statewide intelligence monitoring had not identified any credible threats affecting Dover and confirmed that the department had not experienced any operational impacts associated with the incident that occurred within the city.

COMMUNITY MEETING UPDATES (BOARD MEMBER UPDATES ON COMMUNITY MEETINGS THEY HAVE ATTENDED) – No Updates

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ms. Dominique Dixon announced that the high school summer graduation would be held on July 30 at 10:00 a.m. She stated that the next Capital School District Board meeting will be held on August 19, with executive session beginning at 5:30 p.m. and the public meeting following afterward.

The Board discussed several upcoming community events. Members highlighted National Night Out, which will be held on the first Tuesday in August, with School Resource Officers leading the event as they have in previous years. Ms. Dixon also announced a Back-to-School Event on August 8 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at Booker T. Washington School. The event, organized in partnership with community organizations and churches, will include a Parent Academy where families can receive information and ask questions about the upcoming school year.

Chief Johnson provided an update on the Citizens Police Academy, reporting an overwhelming number of applications, the highest level of interest in several years. Due to program logistics and the hands-on nature of the training, class size may remain limited. If additional applicants cannot be accommodated, they will likely be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. Members discussed the possibility of offering additional classes, but it was noted that staffing, scheduling, and overtime requirements make it difficult to expand the program beyond its annual fall session.

The Chief also discussed the board's mandatory statutory training requirements, explaining that several members are at different stages of compliance. To improve participation, he proposed conducting training sessions virtually through Microsoft Teams and coordinating schedules by email. He also encouraged members to complete ride-alongs, which count toward required training hours and provide valuable experiential learning opportunities. Board members expressed support for the virtual training option and agreed to watch for scheduling emails.

Chief Donald Baynard, Delaware State University Police stated that students would be moving in from August 19th thru the 22nd. Dr. Charlisa Holloway-Edelin reported that the university has reached full enrollment and expects to utilize some off-campus housing due to increased demand. Applications have increased significantly compared to previous years, reflecting the university's growing popularity. University officials stated they are

prepared for the larger student population and are committed to maintaining campus security while fostering positive relationships with the Dover community.

Ms. Dixon asked for clarification regarding the relocation of the Early College program to the downtown area, expressing concern about the potential increase in the number of teenagers in the downtown district. Dr. Holloway-Edelin clarified that the relocation involves the Early College Middle School, not the Early College high school program.

Dr. Holloway-Edelin explained that extensive planning has been completed to ensure student safety and supervision. They noted that approximately 200 middle school students will be housed in a single floor of Malmberg Hall and that detailed procedures have been established for student movement throughout the day, including supervised routes between buses, dining facilities, classrooms, and physical education activities. Students will be closely monitored by staff throughout the school day, with accountability measures appropriate for the middle school age group.

Ms. Dixon acknowledged the explanation but expressed continued concern about the presence of additional youth in the downtown area. In response, Dr. Holloway-Edelin stated that Delaware State University will maintain a 24-hour police presence in the building to monitor the campus and that additional law enforcement presence has been incorporated into the overall safety plan. She added that the university has conducted multiple walkthroughs with campus and public safety officials and expressed confidence that the operational and security measures in place will provide a safe environment for both middle school and university students. Dr. Holloway-Edelin also invited Board members to discuss any additional concerns outside of the meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:34 pm