

Sussex County Southeast Regional Accountability Committee
Quarterly Meeting February 12, 2026, 1 PM
Fenwick Island Town Hall, 800 Coastal Highway, Fenwick Island, DE 19944

Voting Members Present: Chairperson Gayle Marie Brown Driver, Esq., Ms. Lauren Weaver, Rev. Dr. Rebecca Collison, Mr. Gregory Flynn, Mr. Marlin Van Horn, Mr. Denny Pridgeon, Ms. Holly Stiles, Mr. Tom Glenn, Ms. Diana Barrientos-Granados, Mr. Philip Hartmeyer, and Mr. Charles Shelton.

Non-Voting Members Present: Chief Ken McLaughlin, Chief Constance Speake, Chief Jason Lovins, Chief Michael Morrissey, Chief Nicholas Disciullo, Chief Kevin M. Smith, and Capt. Brian Parsons representing Selbyville.

Members Absent: Ms. Claudia Rodgers, Mr. Ed Klima, Mr. Scott Mumford, Chief Brian Wilson.

1. GENERAL INTRODUCTION/CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIENCE

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

No objections to Agenda

3. PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

Minutes from November 13, 2025, meeting were approved.

4. REVIEW OF LAST MEETING'S VOTE

Chairperson Driver made a motion to re-vote on the admission of Frankford Police Department into the PAC. At the 11/13/25 meeting, five members voted "yes", three voted "no", and Chairperson Driver did not vote, so the vote did not pass by the required 2/3 majority. Ms. Weaver made a motion to re-vote, Mr. Van Horn seconded the motion. Seven voting members and the chairperson were present for the re-vote. The two Frankford PAC members were not included in the vote. Four members voted "yes" and three voted "no". Chief Speake noted that both Dewey Beach members were not present.

Chairperson Driver suggested further discussion. Mr. Van Horn said he was concerned about whether Frankford Police Department was committed to the PAC. Chief Smith introduced his PAC members, Mr. Philip Hartmeyer, and Mr. Charles Shelton and explained that the only reason he had to miss the last meeting was because he had to attend a funeral at the same time as the meeting. He said Frankford had always planned to join the PAC but had a difficult time finding a second PAC member and he was off for medical reasons for five months. Mr. Pridgeon mentioned that Chief Disciullo spoke about communication problems with Frankford. Chief Smith said he and Chief Disciullo had discussed the communication problems and they seem to be working on a solution. Chief Morrissey explained that departments are required to be part of a PAC to be accredited and the legislature is pushing to get every department into a PAC and accredited. He believes this should be the last department included but doesn't think Frankford should be excluded when they fit geographically with the other departments.

Chief McLaughlin questioned why the first vote didn't count. Chairperson Driver explained that only 5 of the members present voted to let Frankford in and that was not the 2/3 majority of members present needed to pass. Ms. Weaver noted that the re-vote of four to three also isn't enough to pass the vote. Chief Speake agreed with Chief Morrissey that there was no reason to exclude Frankford, that Frankford's Chief, Town Manager, and two PAC members are here, and they should be allowed to join the PAC. Another PAC member arrived late, and Mr. Pridgeon suggested another vote. Ms. Weaver concurred. Chief Lovins objected to the fact that the agenda listed, "Review of last meeting's vote" and

didn't specifically say the PAC was going to re-vote. He thought some of the members who are absent might have come if they knew there was going to be a new vote and that the agenda should accurately reflect what would happen at the meeting. Chairperson Driver said they constantly stress the importance of PAC member attendance, and this was included so that it could be resolved at this meeting. She asked if any PAC members objected to voting and none did. She asked for a motion to rescind the earlier vote. Ms. Weaver made the motion to re-vote. Mr. Van Horn seconded the motion. Ms. Diana Barrientos-Granados, Mr. Denny Pridgeon, Mr. Tom Glenn, Rev. Dr. Rebecca Collison, Ms. Lauren Weaver, Mr. Gregory Flynn, and Mr. Marlin Van Horn voted "yes" with Ms. Holly Stiles voting "no". The vote passed with seven out of the nine voting members voting "yes".

5. PRESENTATION OF DEPARTMENT STATS

A PowerPoint presentation listed calls for service for each agency for 2024 and 2025 as well as a breakdown of the "assist other agency" calls. Chiefs made brief comments on their stats, and a member of the public asked several questions. The presentation is available on the PAC website- [PD Stats 2024/2025](#). There was further discussion about local police departments having to respond to calls outside their jurisdiction and how this will increase with so many new developments in the area. It was noted that Delaware State Police are also stretched thin. Chief McLaughlin spoke about how the local departments help each other. There was discussion of state and county funding for local police departments and the problem of town taxpayers paying for their officers to respond to calls out of town. Chief McLaughlin mentioned that Ocean View recently completed a study with the International Association of Chiefs of Police (I.A.C.P.) addressing the risk to the Town when officers respond outside town limits. As a result of the study, Ocean View had to raise their liability insurance coverage from \$2 million to \$10 million per incident at a cost of \$6,000. They have drafted legislation to be sent to League of Local Governments asking the state to pay for that coverage. He also noted that most of the calls out of town are higher risk calls. Chiefs McLaughlin and Lovins described how their officers are sworn in to both departments and how that has benefited them through the years. Chief Lovins mentioned an example recently where there was a panic alarm in the unincorporated area of Frankford at 4:13 AM. The closest officer was a South Bethany officer who responded, leaving South Bethany without an officer. If something serious had happened in South Bethany at that time, Ocean View or Fenwick Island would have been called to respond.

Mr. Pridgeon asked if there was a way for PAC members to ask for more funding from County Council considering the development of new housing in the area requiring more from local departments. Chairperson Driver said she wanted to discuss having PAC members possibly send letters to County Council members. Ms. Weaver suggested that before the group proceeds to contact county officials, we should have a plan for what is being requested and explain why the funding is necessary. Chief McLaughlin said the 21 municipal agencies in Delaware currently receive \$45,000 each per year from the county. The Sussex County Police Chiefs' Association has asked for more money, and he thinks they will get some additional funding. Chief Morrissey noted that one police vehicle with required equipment costs \$80,000, seven body cameras cost \$45,000, cameras for eight police vehicles cost \$122,000, and these are mandated by the state. Chief McLaughlin agreed and said the state keeps coming up with more "unfunded mandates" including Police Accountability Committees, equipment, training, and departments must comply. Ms. Weaver asked what money departments get from the state. Chief McLaughlin said they apply for grants including S.A.L.L.E. (State Aid to Local Law Enforcement), E.I.D.E. (Emergency Illegal Drug Enforcement), and S.L.E.A.F. (Special Law Enforcement Assistance Fund). Chief Morrissey said they submit the number of officers they have to the state every year and they are allotted money based on manpower, but the state legislature is working on legislation that would waive certain fines so the money will not be there. He said the state is mandating these things but

at the same time taking away the funding source. Mr. Van Horn would like future meetings to focus on the financial picture, and the challenges police departments face so PAC members can pass information on to their town councils. He noted that the state gets a lot of money from tourists and that money should come back to this area. Chairperson Driver suggested PAC members attend their town council meetings, particularly during budget discussions. She also suggested PAC members should send a committee to attend a state budget hearing and possibly provide testimony. Ms. Weaver asked if town departments could break out the *emergency calls* outside their jurisdiction rather than all assists. Chairperson Driver suggested adding further discussion on this matter to the agenda for the next meeting. She suggested members should attend meetings in their towns over the next few months and talk about what they learn at the next PAC meeting.

6. F.I.P.D. PRESENTATION- VIRTUAL REALITY SIMULATOR

Cpl. Hudson and Cpl. Story of Fenwick Island Police Department demonstrated their virtual reality Simulator. Cpl. Story was wearing the virtual reality glasses and Cpl. Hudson controlled the scenario using a tablet computer. He passed the tablet around so PAC members could see what Cpl. Story was seeing as he went through various scenarios where the officer had to decide if he should deploy his taser and where the taser darts landed, how long it took to react, etc. The scenario can be reviewed on the tablet. Fenwick Island and Ocean View purchased the Simulator package together and welcome the other local departments to use the equipment. Ocean View hosted Simulator training for PAC members last year and Ms. Weaver suggested having another Simulator training.

7. REPORT OF BYLAW REVIEW COMMITTEE

Ms. Weaver, Mr. Klima, and Mr. Smith agreed after the last meeting to look at the bylaws and offer suggestions. Ms. Weaver submitted some suggestions to the other members before the meeting, but the committee did not meet. Mr. Klima was not in attendance and Mr. Smith has resigned from the PAC. No formal recommendations currently. This will be added to the agenda for the next meeting.

8. OPEN DISCUSSION FROM POLICE CHIEFS

Chief Disciullo had several things he wanted to discuss.

- He presented a traffic ordinance proposal to his town council He said his department wrote tickets totaling between \$300,000- \$350,00 in fines and received only \$110,000 of that so 80% went to the state of Delaware.
- Dagsboro Police Department achieved state accreditation last month.
- An I.C.E. protest is tentatively scheduled for March 1st in the town limits, stemming from Indian River High School. D.I.A.C. (Delaware Information & Analysis Center) will complete a threat assessment.
- Dagsboro has signed a contract with Jobs for Blue to handle off-duty officer scheduling for construction jobs. He said Jobs for Blue is the contact point for DELDOT jobs for the state. They have a nice app, handle billing, and charge the contractor directly. He encouraged the other departments in the PAC to sign up in their contract for backup. Ms. Weaver said the Chamber also uses Jobs for Blue to hire for their events.
- An M.O.U. has been drafted for the Sussex County Municipal Collision Reconstruction Unit (S.M.C.R.U.). Chief Disciullo is meeting with the Chiefs next week and would like to speak more about this at the next PAC meeting.

9. OPEN DISCUSSION FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chairperson Driver invited Frankford attendees to introduce themselves. Chief Kevin Smith, Town Manager, Mr. Sheldon Hudson, PAC members, Mr. Philip Hartmeyer and Mr. Charles Shelton spoke briefly about their backgrounds and the other PAC members introduced themselves.

Ms. Weaver mentioned the Chamber will be celebrating First Responders on February 20th at the Joshua M. Freeman First Responder Awards.

Chairperson Driver attended a meeting of the ministerium last week which was attended by ministers from all the jurisdictions in the PAC. She found the meeting interesting and suggested members of the PAC might want to attend a meeting.

10. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be Thursday, May 14, 2026, 1 PM, at the Bethany-Fenwick Area Chamber of Commerce, 33370 Main St, Dagsboro, DE.

11. OTHER COMMENTS

Chairperson Driver mentioned that new PAC members have one year to complete 20 hours training. They should ask their Chiefs what training they can attend, do ride alongs, etc. Chief Speake mentioned PAC members can attend their Spring seasonal training. Ms. Stiles asked if the state has said anything about ongoing training. Chairperson Driver said they haven't at this point, but she thinks they probably will. Chief Speake suggested ride alongs as a good way to get hours.

12. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ocean View resident, Ms. Margaret Reyes, asked if departments have non-compliance agreement with I.C.E. She asked if officers have had training after House Bill 182 passed. None of the Chiefs said they had a specific policy. Chief McLaughlin said they have a phone number for officers to call if they have any questions. He said they haven't seen any type of presence of I.C.E. in Ocean View in 25 years he has been there. She asked Selbyville Capt. Parsons if they have had any interactions with I.C.E. and he said they have not. Ms. Reyes mentioned an incident in Seaford and Chief McLaughlin said I.C.E. was in Seaford for something that had nothing to do with local police but I.C.E. asked for help when things got out of hand. He said that when another agency requests help, they help. They don't ask to see the warrant. Chairperson Driver said that if an agency comes in to assist, it is not their case, so they don't ask to see the warrant. All of the Chiefs said there is nothing going on with I.C.E. in their towns and most have never encountered I.C.E. Chief Lovins said the only contact South Bethany has had was last year after a DUI was processed and released, they received a fax from I.C.E. saying the subject had a federal detainer for deportation but the subject was already gone at that point. Ms. Reyes said she wanted the Chiefs to talk about this among themselves. Ms. Stiles suggested PAC members should research [House Bill 182](#) and talk about it with their Chiefs.

13. ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Stiles made a motion to adjourn the meeting, the motion was seconded by Mr. Van Horn, and the meeting was adjourned at 2:51 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Kendahl Hearn, SCSR PAC Administrative Assistant

[Link to Meeting Video](#) (Passcode: i3y*8mKA)