

## **Sussex County Southeast Regional Accountability Committee**

Quarterly Meeting May 8, 2025, 1 PM  
800 Coastal Highway, Fenwick Island, DE

**Voting Members Present:** Chairperson Gayle Marie Brown Driver, Esq., Ms. Lauren Weaver, Pastor Ethan Magee, Ms. Claudia Rodgers, Esq., Mr. Gregory Flynn, Mr. Ian McCauley, Esq., Mr. Denny Pridgeon, Mr. Scott Mumford, Ms. Holly Stiles, Mr. Tom Glenn, Ms. Diana Barrientos-Granados, and Mr. Scott Smith.

**Non-Voting Members Present:** Chief Jason Lovins, Chief Michael Morrissey, Chief Ken McLaughlin, Chief Constance Speake, Chief Nicholas Disciullo, and Chief Brian Wilson.

**Members Absent:** Mr. Ed Klima

### **1. CALL TO ORDER/Pledge of Allegiance**

### **2. GENERAL INTRODUCTION**

Chairperson Gayle Driver mentioned that this was the fourth meeting of the Sussex County Southeast Regional Accountability Committee since its inception April 24, 2024. The original four departments (Dewey Beach, Fenwick Island, Ocean View, and South Bethany) came together to form the PAC to comply with House Bill 26. There were nine original members and one of the mandates was to complete 20 hours of training to familiarize themselves with the department they were representing and get to know the officers and what they do. Recommendations for training included ride-alongs and citizen's police academies. The PAC has now expanded to six departments with the addition of Dagsboro in November and Selbyville in February and members were advised that training can be done with any of the departments in the PAC.

### **3. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES**

Minutes from February 13, 2025, meeting were approved unanimously and are available on the PAC website [SCSRPAC.com](https://www.scsrpa.com).

### **4. GUEST SPEAKER**

Chairperson Driver introduced Sean Moriarty, Executive Director, State of Delaware Police Officer Standards and Training Commission, to explain what the committee is all about. Mr. Moriarty explained that HB 26 is a law requiring police departments in Delaware to have a police accountability committee (PAC) or be part of a regional PAC. He said about 70% of departments are in compliance but there is still a lot of work to do. There are six joint PACs and this is the largest but also one of the most robust and involved PACs in the state.

Mr. Moriarty said the intention of HB 26 was to increase police accountability, reform, and transparency so the Council on Police Training (COPT) which operated under Delaware State Police was abolished and the Police Officer Standards and Training Commission (POST) was created under Homeland Security for the state. Mr. Moriarty

became the executive director of POST after retiring in his 30<sup>th</sup> year with Delaware State Police. He suggested attendees look to the POST website for more information ([Home - Police Officer Standards and Training Commission](#)). POST is the governing body that certifies police officers and makes sure they maintain their training and qualifications throughout their career and decertifies officers who do not meet the standards. When officers are decertified, their information is entered in a national database so departments across the country can find out about previous misconduct.

Mr. Moriarty provided an overview of the police academies in the state and training standards, including standards for officers coming from other states. POST also oversees accreditation for all police departments in the state. Detailed information is available on the POST website. He briefly outlined accreditation standards and spoke about how helpful it is for different departments to help each other and share policies.

Mr. Moriarty wrapped up by saying that a Delaware PAC is not a citizen review board but a citizen advisory board. PAC members are encouraged to learn more about what police do so they can give advice and Chiefs can learn from them and build relationships across the aisle. He asked if anyone had questions and invited PAC members to call or email him with any questions.

## **5. UPDATE ON REQUIRED 20 HOURS TRAINING**

Chairperson Driver said the original nine members should have completed their 20 hours. Four of the original nine PAC members completed their 20 hours before the year anniversary and some others are nearly finished. Chairperson Driver asked them to describe their experiences. PAC members enjoyed Simulator training at OVPD, Firearms and Taser training with FIPD, the Bike Rodeo at Lord Baltimore Elementary, Cops and Goblins, among others. Many recommend ride-alongs as a great way to get to know what officers do, noting Dewey Beach ride-alongs can be especially interesting and that officers show incredible patience. Chief McLaughlin said he is working on a citizen's police academy, hopefully within the next year.

Ms. Stiles is a newer member who has already completed her training. She attended Dover's Citizen's Police Academy among other training and attended a DPAC meeting. Mr. Moriarty invited PAC members to attend DPAC and POST meetings. These meetings are open to the public and there is also a virtual link on the POST website, but he recommends attending in person. The next DPAC meeting is July 23<sup>rd</sup> and the next POST meeting is August 12<sup>th</sup>.

Chairperson Driver has attended quite a few training courses with OVPD and attended eight sessions of the Dewey Beach Seasonal Academy, which she found quite interesting. She even participated in the OC Spray training where she volunteered to be sprayed in the face with pepper spray. Mr. Moriarty offered PAC members a tour of any of the Delaware Academies.

## **6. UPDATE ON DAGSBORO PD SCHOOL JURISDICTION ISSUE**

Chief Disciullo said his officers were sworn in with Frankford PD, giving them jurisdiction at John M. Clayton Elementary School property. They have not heard back from Delaware State Police about Indian River High School, so his officers still do not have jurisdiction at the high school. The school has a Dagsboro address but is not in the town limits, so officers are not doing proactive patrols there.

Chief McLaughlin elaborated on how it works when municipal officers are asked to handle calls outside of their jurisdiction and how it costs citizens a lot of money and exposes the town to liability. Chief Lovins joined in the discussion.

Chief Lovins responded to a question from a member of the public about how off-duty officers respond to crimes they observe. He explained that there are certain crimes where an officer is allowed to act, and accreditation helps train officers about these things. Chief McLaughlin also pointed out times when on-duty officers in marked units are not allowed to act when they are outside their jurisdiction. He said the state is addressing some of these issues.

## **7. OTHER DISCUSSION**

Chief McLaughlin said the state is also addressing “fragmented areas” in certain jurisdictions. Chief Disciullo elaborated on the types of scenarios that can expose towns to liability if officers act outside their jurisdiction. It was suggested that PAC members can learn a lot by reading through departments’ policy manuals. Manuals are posted on the PAC website for PAC members.

Chief Lovins reiterated the importance of ride-alongs and suggested PAC members should ride with officers other than the Chief to get a different perspective.

Chief Speake said Dewey is finishing up the Seasonal Academy. They have 13 seasonals this year. Construction has started on their new building and will take about a year. She welcomed PAC members to come to Dewey for ride alongs and to the Seasonal Academy next year. Dewey seasonals have temporary certifications as police officers and make arrests. You really get an idea what police officers have to learn by observing the Seasonal Academy.

Chief Morrissey invited everyone to tour the Fenwick Island Police Department after the meeting.

## **8. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Lt Cliff Dempsey from Dewey Beach thanked PAC members for attending Dewey’s seasonal academy. They work very hard on the program and invest a lot in the seasonals who often go on to become full time police officers. He encouraged ride-alongs. Many people have never known police officers and it is good to have that interaction.

Chief Lovins said he would like for someone to show PowerDMS and the Accreditation process at the next meeting and the group agreed.

Chairperson Driver mentioned that the events the police departments hold for the community also serve as stress relief for the officers and are very important as a way for officers and the public to interact.

#### **9. NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be Thursday, August 14, 2025, at Dagsboro Fire Department, 28331 Clayton St, Dagsboro, Delaware.

#### **10. ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting, the motion was seconded, and the meeting was adjourned at 2:35 PM.

*Respectfully submitted, Kendahl Hearn, SCSRPAC Administrative Assistant*

[Link to Meeting Video](#) Passcode: e.Q\$w3QX