

City of Lewes

REHOBOTH BEACH & CITY OF LEWES POLICE ACCOUNTABILITY COMMITTEE

Thursday, December 4, 2025

MINUTES

The REHOBOTH BEACH & CITY OF LEWES POLICE ACCOUNTABILITY COMMITTEE met on Thursday, December 4, 2025 in Council Chambers at Lewes City Hall, in accordance with proper notification, with the following members present: Chair Dan Zachem and Committee Members: Dan DeSimone, Reverend Eddie Jusino, Kim Leisey. Rehoboth Police Chief Keith Banks, Lieutenant Mark Sweet and Lieutenant James Locklear were also present.

A. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

B. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Committee member DeSimone inquired about the required service hours for committee members.

Chief Banks noted he is tracking service hours and both agencies will offer additional opportunities for training in the coming months, including ride-along and online and in-person training.

C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The committee agreed to flip agenda items E and F to accommodate Lieutenant Lemora of the Delaware River Bay Authority (DRBA) who had traveled to attend the meeting.

Motion to approve the amended agenda was made by Committee member Leisey and seconded by Committee member DeSimone. The motion passed unanimously.

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion to approve the minutes of the October 14, 2025, meeting and the October 22, 2025, training session was made by Committee member DeSimone and seconded by Committee member Jusino. The motion passed unanimously.

E. OLD BUSINESS:

1. Discussion and possible action regarding process for new PAC member applications.

The committee took a 5-minute open recess to review the submitted applications for new membership.

The committee discussed the application from Chris White, who has expressed interest in joining the PAC since July 2025. Mr. White attended the meeting and addressed the committee, explaining that he is a local State Farm agent with an office on Rehoboth Avenue Extended, serves on the board of the local YMCA, is active in Rehoboth Sunrise Rotary, and volunteers as an umpire for Lewes Little League.

The committee also noted that Kathleen Berault had previously expressed interest but was not present at this meeting; however, she did come forward at the October meeting to introduce herself to the committee.

The committee then discussed establishing a consistent process for reviewing applications, which would include a written application and an opportunity for applicants to address the committee in person. Some members expressed concern about rushing to add new members before receiving clarification from the Delaware POST office regarding DRBA representation requirements.

Motion to approve Chris White's application to join the PAC was made by Committee member Leisey and seconded by Committee member Jusino. The motion passed with four votes in favor and one abstention from Dan DeSimone.

The committee agreed to invite Kathleen Baralt to the next meeting to discuss her interest in joining.

F. NEW BUSINESS:

1. Discussion and possible action regarding Delaware River Bay Authority joining the PAC- Presentation by Col. McFadden, DRBA.

Lieutenant Jason Lemora came forward and provided a brief history of the DRBA.

Lieutenant Lemora explained that DRBA has four different troop locations: Delaware Memorial Bridge, New Castle Airport, Cape May-Lewes Ferry (Lewes), and Cape May, New Jersey. With 52 sworn officers. He explained the DRBA is interested in joining the Lewes and Rehoboth PAC because the Cape May-Lewes Ferry troop is uniquely situated near the two communities, unlike their other locations which primarily serve transient populations.

He then detailed the community engagement activities at the ferry terminal, including the British Car Show, Delaware Coastal Marathon, concerts, Lewes Fireworks Cruise, and assistance with the Sea Witch Festival. He emphasized that the ferry location has much more community interaction than their other facilities.

Chief Banks explained that DRBA faces unique challenges in forming their own PAC as they don't have the religious representation required by law within their immediate jurisdictions, and their service areas don't have traditional community boundaries.

The committee discussed several concerns:

- Chair Zachem questioned whether DRBA's inclusion would comply with the PAC's bylaws that limit membership to nine members with three from each community.
- The committee debated whether DRBA representatives could satisfactorily represent the surrounding communities.
- Members considered how to handle complaints that might arise from areas outside their traditional jurisdiction, such as the bridge or airport.
- Committee members Leisey and Jusino observed that the ferry is a destination point for many local residents and tourists, providing significant community interaction.

Lieutenant Lemora assured the committee that DRBA would be fully transparent, attend meetings regularly, and possibly rotate representatives from different troops to provide comprehensive coverage of their operations.

With no further questions, Chair Zachem called for a motion. Committee member Jusino made a motion to welcome the Delaware River Bay Authority to the Rehoboth Beach and City of Lewes PAC; Chair Zachem seconded the motion. The motion passed with four votes in favor and one abstention from Committee member DeSimone.

Chief Banks mentioned he would prepare a draft update to the bylaws for the next meeting to formally incorporate DRBA into the PAC structure.

G. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

1. Open discussion from Rehoboth Beach & Lewes Police Departments related to issues in their jurisdictions.

Chief Banks reported:

- Rehoboth Beach achieved a perfect score on the 2025 Municipal Equality Index, which rates cities on non-discrimination laws, municipal employment practices, services, law enforcement, and leadership on LGBTQ+ equity.
- The police department is partnering with local churches for discussions and training on active shooter preparedness.
- The department is meeting monthly with various community organizations including Camp Rehoboth, Chamber of Commerce (Rehoboth and Dewey), and Rehoboth Beach Main Street.

- The department remains on track to obtain state accreditation in the first quarter of 2026.
- Recent compliance reviews for juvenile processing and victim services received clean bills of health.

Lieutenant Locklear reported for Lewes:

- The department continues work on accreditation standards.
- Hospitality Night would take place that evening in Lewes, with Second Street closed to traffic.
- The Lewes Christmas Parade was scheduled for Saturday, noting that getting into town would be difficult after 5 PM.
- The department has been addressing homelessness issues in town, with the mayor calling a meeting with groups that assist the homeless population to find appropriate services.
- The police station would eventually offer tours similar to what Rehoboth Beach provided to the committee.

The committee also discussed the establishment of official PAC email addresses to ensure FOIA compliance. Chiefs Banks and Spell explained they were working with IT departments to create a centralized email system for the PAC that would avoid using members' personal email addresses.

H. PUBLIC COMMENT:

No members of the public were present to comment.

I. ADJOURNMENT:

Motion to adjourn was made by Committee member Jusino and seconded by Committee member Leisey. The motion passed unanimously.

The next meeting was scheduled for January 27, 2026, at the Rehoboth Beach Police Department.

The meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

Minutes submitted by,
Ashley Akgoren, City Clerk

Minutes generated using HeyGov ai.
Transcript available upon request