



**CITY OF REHOBOTH BEACH, CITY OF LEWES POLICE DEPARTMENTS, AND
DELAWARE RIVER & BAY AUTHORITY
POLICE ACCOUNTABILITY COMMITTEE**

Minutes of the
Regular Meeting
June 23, 2026 – 1:00 p.m.

The Police Accountability Committee (“PAC” or the “Committee”) of the City of Rehoboth Beach, the City of Lewes, and the Delaware River & Bay Authority was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Chair Dan Zachem on Tuesday, June 23, 2026. The meeting was held in the Commissioners Room on the second floor of City Hall, 229 Rehoboth Avenue, Rehoboth Beach, Delaware.

The following members of the PAC were *present*:

Mr. Dan Zachem	Chair
Ms. Mary Good	Vice-Chair
Mr. Dan DeSimone	Committee Member
Mr. Andrew Glassman	Committee Member
Dr. Kimberly Leisey	Committee Member
Mr. Chris White	Committee Member
Chief Keith Banks	City of Rehoboth Beach, Ex-officio Member
Lieutenant Mark Sweet	City of Rehoboth Beach, Ex-officio Member
Chief Thomas Spell	City of Lewes, Ex-officio Member
Lieutenant Jason LaMora	Delaware River and Bay Authority, Ex-officio Member

The following members of the PAC were *absent*: Rev. Eddie Jusino, Committee Member.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chair Zachem made a motion, seconded by Ms. Good, to approve the agenda as presented. The motion carried unanimously by the members present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chair Zachem made a motion, seconded by Dr. Leisey, to approve the minutes of the April 28, 2026, PAC Regular Meeting and the May 27, 2026, PAC Training Session. The motion carried unanimously by the members present.

Prior to New Business, Chair Zachem thanked the Committee Members and law enforcement representatives for attending the special meeting and acknowledged the Rehoboth Beach Police Department, including Chief Banks and Lieutenant Sweet, for assisting with meeting logistics on short notice. He also noted that Rev. Jusino was unable to attend due to an unavoidable out-of-town conflict.

Chair Zachem stated that the primary purpose of the meeting was to acknowledge the May 19, 2026, “takeover” event in Rehoboth Beach and the community’s interest in the incident and law enforcement’s response. He noted that direct communication had already occurred between members of the community and law enforcement. While those existing lines of communication may reduce the need for the PAC to serve as an intermediary, the PAC remains available as a forum for community concerns and as a means of fostering productive dialogue.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business.

NEW BUSINESS

Discussion and selection of a date for the third quarter meeting of the Committee.

The Committee discussed scheduling its third quarter meeting for late September, allowing additional time before its anticipated discussion of the May 19 event. Members agreed that Rehoboth Beach City Hall would be an appropriate location to facilitate community participation.

A motion was made by Chair Zachem, seconded by Mr. Glassman, that the third quarter Regular Meeting of the PAC be held on Tuesday, September 29, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. at Rehoboth Beach City Hall.

The motion carried unanimously by those members present.

Discussion and vote on whether a future meeting of the Committee dedicated to a substantive discussion of the recent May 19, 2026 "takeover" event in the City of Rehoboth Beach should take place 1) during regularly scheduled third quarter meeting or 2) if necessary, at a subsequent special session if that additional time is necessary for completion of the currently ongoing independent investigation of the incident and public dissemination of the facts uncovered by that investigation.

The Committee discussed dedicating its third quarter meeting to a substantive review of the May 19 event and law enforcement’s response. Members generally favored allowing additional time for the criminal justice process and the City’s independent investigation to progress before undertaking that discussion. Members also emphasized the importance of having the findings of the independent investigation conducted publicly available to provide a more complete factual record and support a better-informed discussion of the incident and law enforcement’s response. The Committee reaffirmed its role as a forum for residents and other interested persons to provide input s regarding law enforcement matters.

The Committee discussed additional topics previously identified for future consideration and agreed that the May 19 event should receive priority at the September meeting if the independent investigation is sufficiently complete. Topics identified included mental health crisis response, the publication of arrest photographs, particularly involving juveniles and cases that do not result in conviction, and the use of Tasers and other less-lethal options. The Committee also discussed potentially broadening the latter topic into a more comprehensive discussion of use-of-force policies, available tools and techniques, training, and differences among the participating law enforcement agencies. The previously identified topic of fraud targeting senior citizens was also discussed, with the Committee noting that the issue was being addressed through a five-session program with the University of Delaware Osher Lifelong Learning Institute and therefore did not necessarily require separate Committee discussion.

Chief Banks provided an update regarding community outreach following the May 19 event. He reported that the Rehoboth Beach Police Department had been communicating with residents and local organizations and that those discussions had been productive, while recognizing that substantive conclusions remain premature pending completion of the independent investigation. He noted that

community organizations had expressed concerns while also offering support and assistance, including with potential future training. Chief Banks also noted his understanding that, following completion of the investigation, the City may consider holding an open house or community forum to discuss its findings.

The Committee discussed opportunities for continued training and education. Although no ongoing training requirement was identified, members agreed that continuing education would assist the Committee in fulfilling its responsibilities. Potential training could include presentations by law enforcement personnel or outside agencies on topics previously identified by the Committee, including a future training session on use of force. Members also received an update on the development of an anonymous survey intended to assist the Committee in evaluating its current composition and considering future applicants.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

Open discussion from Rehoboth Beach Police, Lewes Police, & Delaware River Bay Authority related to issues in their jurisdictions

Chief Keith Banks, Rehoboth Beach Police Department, reported positively on the performance of the City's seasonal police officers, noting increased engagement with the public and favorable feedback from community members. He attributed some of the improvement to changes in training, including additional scenario-based instruction, radio and body-worn camera training, and the assignment of training officers throughout the program. He also reported that summer activity had remained steady without any major incidents. Looking ahead, the Department was preparing for the City's July 5 fireworks and 250th anniversary celebration.

Chief Thomas Spell, Lewes Police Department, reported that the City of Lewes was preparing for its upcoming Juneteenth celebration at Blockhouse Pond and its July 4 fireworks at Lewes Beach. He also discussed the City's participation in National Night Out, scheduled for August 4 at Blockhouse Pond, describing the event as an opportunity for law enforcement to engage directly with the community.

Lieutenant Jason LaMora, Delaware River and Bay Authority, reported on the recent World Cup watch party at the Cape May-Lewes Ferry, which drew more than 1,000 attendees and concluded successfully. He also highlighted upcoming summer activities at the ferry, including the weekly Rocking the Docks concert series, Rock the Boat concerts, and July fireworks events.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Zachem made a motion, seconded by Ms. Good, to adjourn the meeting.
The motion carried unanimously by those members present and the meeting adjourned at 1:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Marco O. Avila
Compliance & Grants Administrator
City of Rehoboth Beach