

**Smyrna, Cheswold & Clayton**  
**Police Accountability Committee Meeting**  
**Tuesday, May 26, 2026 @ 6:00 p.m.**

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. at Smyrna Police Department's training room located at 325 Glenwood Avenue, Smyrna, DE 19977. Those present were Chief Christopher Workman, Chief Brian Donner, Chief Harvey Scott IV, Lt. Philip Bishop, Allison Pedigo, Danielle Maichle, Dr. Corine Upshur, Rev. Ronnierre Robinson, Rodney Calendar, Irene Strozeski, Larry Strozeski, and Christine Letterman.

1. **Pledge of Allegiance** – Chief Workman led the Pledge of Allegiance.
2. **Moment of Silence / Prayer** – The Pledge of Allegiance was followed by a moment of silence.
3. **Call to Order / Roll Call of Members** – Rodney Calendar, Danielle Maichle, Allison Pedigo, and Dr. Corine Upshur were present and Justin Capps and Alex Dias were absent. Rev. Ronnierre Robinson attended by phone so a quorum was established.
4. **Review Corrections and Approval of By-Laws** – The committee reviewed and discussed revisions to the By-Laws from the previous meeting. In the introductory section, we changed "Delaware State Police" to "Cheswold, Smyrna, and Clayton" to correct a typographical error. In Article III, Section 2 it says "Members must be residents or conduct business in the Towns that they are appointed to represent". This was changed to include members may live outside the town and do business in the town. The next part that was changed is "Individuals holding an elected office in Municipal, County, State or Federal government **are** eligible to be members if so approved by the municipality that they are representing. Individuals holding an elected office on a public Board or Commission **are** eligible to serve as a member." These changes were necessary because the original wording excluded two current committee members.

A question was raised regarding the 20 hours of training. It was noted that this requirement is mandated by state law and therefore does not need to be included in the By-Laws. A recommendation was also made to remove the word "Chair" from Article V, Section 5. Chief Donner made a motion to approve the By-Laws contingent with those changes. Mrs. Pedigo seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. The revised By-Laws will be updated and distributed to all committee members.

5. **Training Requirement** – Everyone is required to have the 20 hours of training during their first year of service. You may do ride alongs with your local police department. You can also try citizens police academy or something similar. The training is a POST requirement. It was recommended that members complete at least half of the required training prior to the next meeting in August. Training is tracked by the agency giving the training. It doesn't have to be in the by-laws, but we can make a policy. POST is very stringent regarding training. Ride alongs are the easiest training options due to their flexible availability. All you have to do is fill out a packet and set a schedule. Mrs. Pedigo attended CAP Training where she experienced hands on demonstrations, including the use of a taser. She also rode along with Clayton Police

Department as well. Chief Donner has a 100-page power point presentation about juvenile procedures that he can send out. It's 8 hours of training, POST approved and self-paced. Topics include investigations, arrests, trauma-informed care, Miranda rights and custody procedures. Just let Chief know if you have any questions.

6. **New Business** – Chief Scott would like to recommend removing Alex Dias from the committee due to lack of communication and participation and appointing a replacement member. Chief Donner made a motion seconded by Mrs. Pedigo. The motion carried unanimously. A letter will be sent informing Mr. Dias of his removal from the Police Accountability Committee.
7. **Comments from Committee** - Rev. Robinson expressed concerns regarding teenage takeovers and pop-up parties and asked what strategies communities could use to address and deter these events. Chief Scott discussed a recent incident in the Town of Clayton at the Taste of New York. He explained that organizers of these events often use vague social media posts and only release the exact location shortly before the event begins. The best thing community members can do is let the police department know if they see or hear anything about a pop-up party. They may be on social media platforms that law enforcement may not actively monitor. During the incident, the Fire Marshall's office was called in and multiple officers from different agencies assisted in breaking the party up. We asked for mutual aid and received help from DSP, the helicopter, all officers on duty at Smyrna Police Department, and officers from Clayton Police Department. The three Chiefs are communicating and corroborating to making sure they are equipped and prepared. There was a pop up party scheduled at the Municipal Park, so it was stopped ahead of time. There was also a party at an Airbnb that was being rented out in Cheswold next to Mr. Calendar's home. It can turn from a party to violence quickly and we are just trying to keep everyone safe. We are trying to be cognizant of the fact that these are teenagers having these parties and want to have fun. However, it has become a nationwide issue and we need to have conversations with our young adults to prevent someone getting hurt.

When kids are in session at Delaware State University, they are more afraid of their own police because of scholarships and economic sanctions. DSU has been very good about responding to the parties and have talked to the kids directly. They let us know this is not a sanctioned event. We just need to continue to adapt and overcome.

8. **Comments from Community** – Mr. Strozski wanted to know what the minimum age was to become a police officer, which is 21. He then wanted to know where they were trained. All training is set by POST but there are multiple academies. Wilmington, New Castle County, Dover and DSP all have academies. Depending on the academy the time of training varies from 20-26 weeks.
9. **Adjournment** – Chief Donner made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Mrs. Pedigo with a unanimous vote. The meeting was adjourned at 6:27 p.m.