



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR
3601 NORTH DUPONT HIGHWAY
NEW CASTLE, DE 19720

“PUBLIC SAFETY ONE”

March 5, 2026

10:00 am

EOC/FUSION ROOM AND VIRTUAL ZOOM MEETING**

NEW CASTLE COUNTY PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDING
3601 NORTH DUPONT HIGHWAY
NEW CASTLE, DELAWARE 19720

MEETING MINUTES

A. OPENING WELCOME

- a. Meeting began at 10:01 am. Director Elmer Setting welcomed everyone.

B. PRESENTATIONS

- a. **Emergency Medical Services (EMS) - Chief Mark Logemann (Asst. Chief Kelli Starr-Leach)**

- i. Totals January 2026-March 2026:

- 1. 6,572 call volume
 - 2. Daily Average: 110
 - 3. Down 11% from same time 2025

- a. Note that early 2025 saw unprecedented numbers. 2026 is on track with expected numbers

- ii. Staffing:

- 1. 259 authorized/137 current
 - 2. 113 certified
 - 3. 22 vacancies (though 12 offers have been extended for the 8th Paramedic Academy)
 - 4. 3 retirements on the horizon (2 have submitted papers)

- iii. Incident Response Highlights

- 1. MV Collision – duPont Pkwy/Summit Bridge Rd
 - a. Entrapment and ejection
 - b. 8 patients (5 to Christiana/1 deceased/2 children to Nemours)

- c. Multiple units and supervisors called to scene
 2. Confined Space Rescue –NCC worker fell down sewer pump station shaft while responding to sewer alarm.
 - a. Special Ops Medic first on scene and was lowered down to treat patient immediately.
 - b. Successful mission – patient to Trauma Center via Trooper 4 – serious injuries but doing well
 - iv. Specialized Teams
 1. Technical Rescue Team
 - a. High Angle Training at Fire Company
 - b. Silver Lake Road rescue on Feb 21(sewer incident)
 2. Tactical Team
 - a. Trained 82.5 hrs with NCCPD SWAT
 - b. Conducted 5 operations in the county
 3. Recruitment Team and Background Investigators
 - a. 3 recruiting events
 - b. 20 background investigations in process
 - c. 22 applicants at the Tower Hill Fitness Testing event
 - v. Community Outreach - February
 1. February
 - a. School/Student Events - Cardiac arrest training/public safety tours/orientation for students with learning issues
 - b. Community - Hands Only CPR trainings/WPD Resource Fair
 2. March
 - a. School/Student Events – Career Days/Touch a Truck events/high school lifesavers program tour
 - b. Community - Hands Only CPR trainings (one with NCC Council)/Resource Fairs
 - vi. Academy Updates
 1. 6th Academy
 - a. 6 in FTO (3 were pre-cert medics)
 2. 7th Academy
 - a. 15 recruits in training
 - b. Looking very promising
 - c. Graduation – August 2026
 3. 8th Academy
 - a. 12 recruit offers extended
 - b. June 8, 2026 start date /October 2027 graduation
 4. 9th Academy
 - a. Planning for 20 recruits
 - b. Nov 2026 start/January 2028 Graduation
 5. Once 9th Academy is officially hire – EMS will be fully staffed
 - vii. Milestone Events

1. NCC Paramedics 50th Anniversary Celebration will be May 9, 2026.
Details to follow.

b. Emergency Communications (911) – (Asst. Chief Dunkelberger for Chief Holden)

- i. Totals for staffing and calls for Public Safety Operators (PSO)
 1. January 1, 2026 to present
 - a. 36 authorized/25 filled/8 in training /1 in hiring process/2 vacant
 - i. 5 new operators started March 3, 2026 (visiting with us at this meeting)
 - ii. Major progress in closing the vacancy gap – crediting efforts from Director/Dep. Director and Human Resources)
 - b. 1,879 hours of required overtime
 - c. 53,555 calls processed
 - ii. Totals for staffing and calls for RECOM
 1. Through February 2026
 - a. 28 authorized/16 filled/3 vacancy/5 in training
 - b. 10,104 calls processed
 - c. 18,413 Case numbers assigned
 - d. 2,338.5 hours of required overtime
 - iii. Totals for staffing and calls for Fireboard
 1. Through February 2026
 - a. 28 authorized/23 filled/1 vacancy/4 in training /2 started on March 3, 2026
 - b. 2,560 hours of required overtime
 - c. 17,329 calls processed
 - d. 28,482 cases assigned
 - iv. Totals for all of Emergency Communications through February 2026:
 1. Total Overtime worked: 6,777 hrs
 2. Total of 3 vacancies
 3. 80,990 calls processed
 4. 32,296 Police cases assigned
 5. 28,482 Fire/Medical cases assigned
 - v. Hiring Updates
 1. RECOM/Fireboard
 - a. Telecommunicators Hiring list expired. Posting for the 4 positions are expected in next few weeks
 2. Public Safety Operators
 - a. 25 filled/7 in training/1 in hiring process/3 open positions
 - vi. Major Incidents - February
 1. 12 structure fires
 2. 2 technical rescues

3. 4 major accidents
4. 1 person on fire
- vii. Quality Assurance Office (Snyder)
 1. Year to date 2026
 - a. 372 EMS calls
 - b. 104 EFD calls
 - c. 90% of all reviewed calls achieved 95% or higher compliance ratings
 2. New monitor upgrades done – have been used to support trainings already
- viii. Training Coordinator Yvette Price
 1. Overseeing Certification Process for 8 new trainees and evaluating their progress (EMD/EFD/EPD/DELJIS/CJIS)
 2. Monitoring the 7 previous new hires – close contact with supervisors/evaluators
 3. Coordinated observation sessions for prospective employees and ride-alongs to aid students in the field in achieving the required 50 hours of volunteer services for graduation.
- ix. Intercept Zero
 1. Holding monthly meeting with NCCPD BHU to address overlaps in programs, ways each can supplement the other and to coordinate call types more suitable for one program over the other.
- x. Director thanks Communications Leadership, but more importantly employees for unwaveringly keeping the lights on as we worked to close the vacancy gap(s). Many new ideas being explored to reach the goal even faster and aim to prevent future ones.

c. New Castle County Department of Police (NCCPD)

i. Professional Development (Captain Guzevich)

1. 407 assigned (including the recruits set to graduate this mth)/415 authorized/367 sworn officers/8 vacancies
2. Graduation for the 54th Academy: March 26, 2026 at Cab Calloway
3. Public Safety Awards Ceremony: March 31, 2026, Snow Room

ii. Patrol Division (Lt. Breslin for Captain Herring)

1. Officer initiated or dispatched Firearm Arrests
 - i. 3 this month
2. Highlight: License Plate Readers (LPR) cases
 - a. Old Cooches Bridge Road area: LPR hit for stolen tag in the area. Car spotted, stop done. 2 suspects in possession of crack/heroin and burglar tools
 - b. Brookmont Drive area: report taken of stolen car. Within minutes the LPR detected car near Brookmont Drive. Car stopped – driver fled but apprehended. Driver was 13 years of age. Following day,

13 year old linked to more car thefts.

- c. Lowe's parking lot (Bear) – alert of a Kia stolen in California followed by 2nd alert on Hessler Blvd. Car stopped. Drive wanted many times for out of state warrants. Large number of purchased ceramic tiles found but also located many electrical receptacles, smart locks and smoke detectors. Case turned over to DSP's Retail Theft Unit.

iii. **Investigative Services (Captain Bradshaw with Lts. Burke)**

1. **Criminal Investigations Unit**

a. Cold Case Success – (Williams)

- i. 2011 a human skull was found in the woods. Subsequent search found a scattering of additional bones. Testing done at that time including skull restoration with no success
- ii. 2021 New technology (Othram Labs) created a genealogical DNA sequence from one tooth. A “tree charting” expert was able to trace to a relative born on 1935.
- iii. That relative was still alive. Cold Case Unit made contact and learned Victim's grave was desecrated/robbed in 2002 (WPD report). And provided information on the victim.
- iv. More detailed testing to specifically match that named person is taking place.

2. **Major Crimes Squad**

- a. Sentencing: 2023 Victim attacked by stranger while waiting at a neighborhood bus stop. Baseball bat to the head multiple times. Defendant convicted of Att. Murder and sentenced to 25 years.
- b. Sentencing: 2025 victim found beaten to death in her home. Defendant recently sentenced to 30 years for her death.

3. **Human Trafficking (DHIT)**

- a. Wellness Tui-Na Spa (Hockessin)
 - i. 2 defendants arrested for Money Laundering, Promoting Prostitution and Conspiracy
- b. Angel Therapy Massage (Fouk Rd)
 - i. Defendant arrested for Promoting Prostitution, Criminal Nuisance and Wage Theft
- c. Panda Spa (Newark)
 - i. Defendant arrested for Promoting Prostitution and Criminal Nuisance
- d. 3 victims rescued from the establishments and victim services are working to return them to the life they deserve

iv. **Operations Support (Captain Rogers with Lt. Knorr)**

Phone: (302) 395-8019 FAX: (302) 395-8076

1. RTIC

- a. Unit transferred to Operations Supervision now
- b. Drone base site #1 temporarily installed, additional ones to follow quickly. Permanent spots will be constructed while using the temporary ones.
- c. FAA paperwork being reviewed and awaiting approval before drones are officially up in the air

2. Traffic Division

- a. Motor Vehicle Responses
 - i. 0 Fatal Crashes/ 0 Departmental Crashes/1 Personal Injury Crash and 0 Property Damage Crashes
- b. Speed Cameras Milltown/McKennans Church still set to begin warnings mid-March and live mid-April
- c. Working with Office Homeland Security to get more radar systems for hot button areas

3. Mounted Unit

- a. 45th Anniversary of the Mounted Unit Celebration set for September 19, 2026 at Carousel Park
- b. Equestrian Academy for potential officers moved back to Fall 2026 due to construction at Carousel.
- c. Goal is still to purchase 1 new one/year with current funding options.
- d. Mount Warden was retired February 6
- e. Mounts represented at Det. Skrobot's funeral
- f. Search still on for 3 new Clydesdales in 2026

4. Behavioral Health Unit (BHU)

- a. Year to Date:
 - i. 53 Mental Health Referrals
 - ii. 18 Hero Help Participants
 - iii. 52 Non-fatal Overdose Outreach
- b. 4th BHU team set to roll out March 16th - then each NCCPD Squad will have a team on shift with them – partnering with Christiana care for additional funding
- c. Staffing:
 - i. 5 sworn officers/1 coordinator/6 CCHS field professionals

5. Crisis Management Group

- a. Year to Date:
 - i. Active 34 times
 - ii. 1 barricade situations
 - iii. 4 no notice call outs

6. Community Services

- a. Community Events

- i. “K9 Officer Wombat” continues his press tour – making appearances on all major Philadelphia TV stations
 1. More importantly though, he recently met with foster children who had a fear of officers due to early traumatic incidents – Wombat helped alleviate their anxiety and they are less fearful now
 - ii. Hockessin PAL Art Program
 1. Cpl. Allen coordinated a field trip to the CACC to view/learn about art and helps create Valentine cards with the children
 - iii. Youth Academy began February 5 and runs every Thursday until June.
 - iv. Citizens Academy to begin most likely March 19 and runs through mid-May.
 7. Colonel Leonard announces the passing of Ret/Sgt. Dave Stewart this week. Dave returned to NCCPD as a civilian after retirement and at the time of his passing was a member of the Professional Development Unit. Funeral details will be announced once coordinated.
 - d. **Project SEED – Community Services (Gerard Tatum)**
 - i. Introduction and Welcome to newest members of Project Seed
 1. Dr. Eliza Carter
 2. Rashid Mustafa
 3. Muhammad Salaam
 - ii. January and February Community Events
 1. Meetings to introduce new members: Dr. Carter/Mustafa/Salaam
 2. CADCA/Mentorship Conferences in Washington DC
 3. Free Haircuts for kids at PAL Center
 4. Mentee visits at area schools/libraries
 5. Black Excellence Ball
 6. Blue Coats Games
 7. YES! DE Youth Environmental Summit – coordinated with Councilwoman Durham
 8. Black History Celebrations and honors to Dr. Carter
 9. Continued planning events for First Tee Golf/Urban Bike Project/C.C.C Video Productions
 - iii. March Community Events
 1. Youth Police Academy role players (witnesses for interviews/interrogation exercises)
 2. ATTACK Addiction
 3. Free Haircut Events at Garfield PAL
 4. WOW Youth Presentation
 5. Good Touch/Bad Touch presentations (with Nemours Children’s Hosp)

at Richardson Park Elementary

- iv. Knollwood Chess Program which begins in October and culminates in a tournament in April, continues to be a great success over the last 7 years. 2026 Annual Tournament set for April 18 at Rt. 9 Library (1pm)
- v. Dr. Carter in planning stages of a Seed Planting Program to introduce children to planting and cultivating a garden – destress tool, promotes self sufficiency, visibly see the fruits of their efforts. More info to come. Grant funding is possibility.

e. Office of Emergency Management (OEM) – (Coordinator Hodgden)

- i. Training Exercises and Protective Plans for Community
 - 1. Operation Eagle Resiliency Flooding/Sheltering Exercise
 - 2. Ice and Water Rescue Demo and Training
 - 3. ALERRT/AAIR training with the 54th Police Academy
 - 4. WMD/ICS training with the 54th Police Academy
- ii. OEM Countywide Prevention
 - 1. Countywide review with Colonial Pipeline
 - 2. CPR training for NCC employees
 - 3. Participated in City of Wilmington’s OEM Operation Eagle Resiliency Exercise. Our OEM members acted as controllers/evaluators
- iii. OEM Incident Responses
 - 1. EOC Activations for Winter Storms Fern and Hernando
 - a. 192 man hours among 3 OEM workers
 - b. 21 request for resources(227 cots/salt deposits/transport for essential employees/13 Natl Guard deployments
 - 2. Nursing Home Water Main Break
 - a. 189 displaced residents – supplied 150 cots to various locations
 - 3. Water Treatment Facility Fire – assist to Wilmington Fire Co.
 - 4. HACSR callout by Middletown Fire for Special Operations – worker in the sewer shaft
- iv. Upcoming Training
 - 1. March 7 and March 14 – day events at Newark Senior Center teaching disaster preparedness to community members
- v. Federal Funding Update
 - 1. At present, Dept of Homeland Security (DHS) funding has been paused as Congress navigates government shutdown.
 - a. All trainings/events funded by same are on hold
 - b. FEMA is under DHS domain, so limited movement now on OEM ventures until further notice

C. OTHER BUSINESS (as needed)

- a. None.

D. COUNTY EXECUTIVE TEAM COMMENT***

Phone: (302) 395-8019 FAX: (302) 395-8076

a. None

E. COUNTY COUNCIL COMMENTS***

a. None

F. PUBLIC COMMENT AND QUESTIONS

a. None

G. CLOSING COMMENTS and ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEXT MEETING

a. Director thanks everyone for their continued commitment to public service especially with the challenging events of the last few weeks and months

b. Next meeting to be held April 2, 2026 at 10:00am in the EOC/FUSION Center

H. ADJOURNMENT – Meeting ended 10:37am