

TALBOT COUNTY, MARYLAND
POLICE ACCOUNTABILITY BOARD

Minutes of Public Meeting
May 12, 2026

The meeting of the Talbot County Police Accountability Board ("PAB") was called to order at 8:30 a.m. on Tuesday, May 12, 2026. Present were Chairman Mitchell Ettinger, Members Brian Naranjo, Jo Ann Murray, Chris Rice, and Board Secretary Victoria Bradley.

St. Michaels Police Department ("SMPD") was represented by Chief Osborne. The Talbot County Sheriff's Office ("TCSO") was represented by Sheriff Joseph Gamble and the Easton Police Department ("EPD") was represented by Chief Alan Lowery.

- I. **Call to Order** – Chairman Ettinger called the meeting to order and made welcoming remarks.
- II. **Minutes** – Upon motion made by Ms. Murray, seconded by Mr. Naranjo, the minutes of the February 10, 2026 PAB meeting were approved unanimously.
- III. **Old Business** – There was no old business to discuss.
- IV. **Discussion with Law Enforcement Agencies ("LEA")**

- a. *Submission of Quarterly Use of Force Reports* – Chairman Ettinger thanked the LEAs for their submissions of Use of Force Reports and summaries. Mr. Rice asked for clarification regarding the EPD use of force reports referencing a taser. The EPD explained that one incident involved the mere display of a taser, which constitutes a reporting incident pursuant to policy. The other incident involved an EPD officer who assisted the TCSO in detaining an individual who was resisting arrest. The EPD officer deployed his taser without subduing the individual and therefore deployed it a second time to achieve compliance. EPD reported that EMS responded to the scene, checked the individual and removed the taser probes. EPD does not believe the individual was hospitalized.
- b. *Criminal Activity Trends or Upticks* – EPD, TCSO and SMPD all referenced an uptick in fraudulent schemes. EPD reported seeing an uptick with vehicle and retail thefts. TCSO discussed an uptick in child sex abuse in Talbot County.
- c. *Status of Pending Investigations within ACC Purview* –SMPD has no pending complaints. TCSO anticipates submitting one pending investigation in the near term. EPD has three investigations in progress.

- d. Community Relations Activities (Q2 & Q3 2026) – Chairman Ettinger noted that the LEAs have many planned community service activities this quarter.

EPD reported that they held an eight-week Community Policing Academy with nine attendees EPD also played in the annual MLK basketball tournament. EPD discussed its placement of a School Resource Officer (“SRO”) in St. Peter and Paul. The next quarter will have more community events with summer vacation, festivals, and the July 4th fireworks celebrations happening through the County.

TCSO has applied for a grant to host a citizen’s police academy for adults and kids. TCSO supports several end of school year activities, including the after-graduation party at the Talbot County Community Center where the graduates have a lock in party.

SMPD reported that it receives community pool passes from the St. Michaels Rotary Club and distributes them from the police station, resulting in numerous positive interactions with local residents throughout the summer.

- e. PAB/LEA Topics of Interest/Concern: TCSO Lt. Steve Hall shared a presentation on scams and fraud awareness that has been the subject of different community events. Lt. Hall explained that fraudulent schemes involving crypto currency and gift cards are difficult to investigate and prosecute.

Lt. Hall emphasized awareness is the best tool to fight scams and fraudulent activity. Common traits of a fraudulent scheme include:

- Unexpected calls, emails or text messages
- Suspicious website links
- Threatening or urgent language
- Spelling and grammar mistakes
- Posing as an agent or representative of a government agency

- V. Discussion regarding the PAB Statewide Summit – Chairman Ettinger attended the PAB statewide summit hosted by the Baltimore County PAB. He reported that the Talbot County PAB’s actions are consistent with other PABs. The one area that could be improved is community education regarding the role of the PAB and ACC. For example, one county offers an evening PAB meeting to make it more accessible to those who work. Another county offers food/drink to entice residents to attend. The PAB is going to make that a focus in the second half of 2026.

With respect to the ACC, Chairman Ettinger believes that it is operating as intended, especially when considering the challenges reported by other ACCs. Some ACCs complained about the quality of the LEA’s investigative reports and a lack of cooperation between the LEAs and the ACC.

- VI. Report to PAB on Completed ACC Decisions** – Chairman Ettinger reported to the PAB regarding the most recent ACC decisions.
- VII. Next PAB Meeting** – The Board set a tentative date for the next PAB meeting for July 14, 2026, at 8:30 a.m.
- VIII. Adjournment** – There being no further business, a motion was made by Mr. Naranjo and seconded by Ms. Murray to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously, and the meeting adjourned at 10:00 a.m.