

**TALBOT COUNTY, MARYLAND
POLICE ACCOUNTABILITY BOARD**

Minutes of Public Meeting
August 12, 2025

The meeting of the Talbot County Police Accountability Board ("PAB") was called to order at 8:30 a.m. on Tuesday, August 12, 2025. Present were Chairman Mitchell Ettinger as well as Members Brian Naranjo, Jo Ann Murray, Chris Rice, Connie Webster, and Board Secretary Victoria Bradley.

- I. **Call to Order** – Chairman Ettinger called the meeting to order and made welcoming remarks.
- II. **Minutes** – Upon motion made by Ms. Webster, seconded by Mr. Rice, the minutes of the Tuesday, May 13, 2025, PAB meeting were approved unanimously with one spelling correction.
- 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 LEA's for their submissions of the Use of Force Report summaries, noting that there were no major incidents. The Chairman requested that the LEAs submit the actual use of force reports in lieu of summaries.
- b. *Criminal Activity Trends or Upticks* – The Talbot County Sheriff's Office ("TCSO") stated they were seeing an uptick in mental health related calls and cases across the County. TCSO provided information and background regarding the Mobile Crises Program in Talbot County and described recent challenges it had faced. TCSO stated that more resources were needed in the County to address mental health related issues.

Easton Police Department ("EPD") discussed a recent bank robbery and the detective work that led to the arrest of those involved.

The LEAs noted that they were still seeing too many Internet scams aimed primarily at senior citizens.

- c. Community Relations Activities (Q3 and Q4 2025) –TCSO stated there was a good turnout at the National Night out event. TCSO stated they were preparing for Talbot Go Purple’s event on September 5th.

The LEAs noted the decline in turn out from the Hispanic/Latino community at public events for fear of ICE enforcement actions. EPD visited a number of Hispanic churches to inform the community of state laws and resources available. The principal purpose of these presentations was to emphasize the role of the local police department – to ensure the safety of the residents and that they should not hesitate to reach out for fear of deportation.

- d. Status of Pending Investigations within ACC Purview – EPD has two (possibly three) complaints under investigation. TCSO currently has three complaints under investigation and anticipates submitting one or two to the ACC next month.
- e. ICE Actions in Talbot County – Ms. Bradley reported on phone call conversations she had with concerned members of the community regarding recent ICE activity in the County. Ms. Bradley stated both members of the community expressed fright over ICE actions and were seeking information regarding their legal and civil rights, and the role of the local police in such enforcement actions.

EPD stated they referred people to Lt. Orionta within its department, who a native Spanish speaker who could assist members of the community. EPD also stated they provided contact information for the Chesapeake Multicultural Resource Center (“ChesMRC”) located on Dover Road in Easton, a center that provides legal service referrals, immigration services, and family and employment support.

EPD further stated if a member of the community was uncertain whether someone appearing at their home was an ICE or other federal official, the EPD would dispatch an officer to confirm the identity of the purported federal officer.

TCSO stated the Sheriff’s Association met with the Maryland ICE Director, who reported that she was not seeing due process issues with the manner by which ICE operated. TCSO noted that ChesMRC worked to bond out detained individuals and set a bond hearing in Baltimore. Most, if not all such detainees, received a bond hearing within 30 days. TCSO further stated its belief that ICE agents were targeting specific individuals and not arresting random individuals.

The LEAs had received phone calls from concerned citizens about the recent ICE activity were doing their best to educate and assist the community. All the LEAs stated they were not receiving any communications from ICE directly. The LEAs

had requested more direct communications from ICE, noting the lack of communication created additional challenges. LEAs had seen more missing persons reports as a result of families unable to locate family members who had been detained by ICE.

f. LEA Topics of Interest/Concern – None at this time.

g. Report on PAB members' discussions with other PAB representatives – The PAB members discussed their feedback and experiences when reaching out to other PABs to learn about their successes and challenges. Unfortunately, most members' outreach was not returned, neither with return calls nor email responses. Chairman Ettinger reported on his conversation with the administrator for the Montgomery County PAB and ACC. Their ACC met twice monthly, handling anywhere from 1-8 cases at each session. Because of the volume of matters, the Montgomery County ACC issued summary decisions typically one page in length. Montgomery County had a good working relationship with their LEAs. The PAB did not veer from the statutory mandate, focusing on recommendations arising from disciplinary actions. Its current focus regarded LEA policies that use the term "may" and determining whether it would be beneficial or more appropriate to make such discretionary actions mandatory ("shall"). In sum, the Montgomery County PAB operated essentially the same as our PAB.

Montgomery County's PAB invited local community leaders to its PAB meetings to talk with the LEAs and PAB about specific topics. This concept was well received by the Talbot County LEAs and the other members of our PAB. Ms. Webster suggested the first invitation could be extended to county officials working to quell the mental health crisis.

h. Report to PAB Regarding ACC Decisions – Chairman Ettinger discussed the most recent ACC decision.

V. **Next PAB Meeting** – The Board set a tentative date for the next PAB meeting with the Local Law Enforcement Agencies for November 4, 2025, at 8:30 am.

VI. **Adjournment** – There being no further business, a motion was made by Ms. Webster and seconded by Mr. Rice to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously, and the meeting adjourned at 9:38 am.