CITY OF DOVER, DELAWARE
DOVER HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION
Tuesday, July 21, 2026 at 6:00 PM

City Hall Council Chambers, 15 Loockerman Plaza, Dover, Delaware

AGENDA

VIRTUAL MEETING NOTICE

This meeting will be held in the City Hall Council Chambers with electronic access via WebEx. Public participation information is as follows:

Dial: 1-650-479-3208
Link: https://tinyurl.com/yddw3dzk
Event number: 2530 463 0928
Event password: DOVER (if needed)

If you are new to WebEx, get the app now at https://www.webex.com/ to be ready when the meeting starts.

Public comments are welcome on any item and will be permitted at appropriate times. When possible, please notify the City Clerk's Office at 302-736-7008 or cityclerk@dover.de.us should you wish to be recognized.

OPEN FORUM - 10 Minutes Prior to Official Meeting (6:00 p.m.)

The "Open Forum" segment is provided to extend the opportunity to the general public to share their questions, thoughts, comments, concerns, and complaints. Discussion of any item appearing on the agenda is prohibited during the Open Forum, as an opportunity will be provided during consideration of that item. Citizen comments are limited to five (5) minutes. The Commission is prohibited from taking action since they are not in official session; however, they may schedule such items as regular agenda items and act upon them in the future.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. **Dover Human Relations Commission Meeting of March 17, 2026**

COMMITTEE REPORTS/UPDATES

2. **Assessment (Ms. Mullen, Ms. Brinkley, and Dr. Mishoe Sudler, I)**

3. **Community Programs (Mr. Faust, Mr. Fleming, and Dr. Mishoe Sudler, I)**

4. **School Programs (Mr. Lott, Ms. White, Mr. Fleming, and Dr. Mishoe Sudler, I)**

5. **By-laws (Ms. White, Ms. Brinkley, and Dr. Mishoe Sudler, I)**

6. **Finance (Ms. Brinkley and Dr. Mishoe Sudler, I)**

OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

7. **Open Discussion**

FUTURE MEETING DATE

8. **The next scheduled meeting of the Dover Human Relations Commission is October 20, 2026 at 6:10 p.m.**

ADJOURNMENT BY 7:00 P.M.

To assure that there will be a quorum,
please RSVP by contacting the City Clerk's Office
by email at cityclerk@dover.de.us or by calling 736-7008
as soon as possible.

THE AGENDA ITEMS AS LISTED MAY NOT BE CONSIDERED IN SEQUENCE. PURSUANT TO 29 DEL. C. §10004(e)(2), THIS AGENDA IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE TO INCLUDE THE ADDITION OR THE DELETION OF ITEMS, INCLUDING EXECUTIVE SESSIONS, WHICH ARISE AT THE TIME OF THE MEETING

DOVER HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION

The Dover Human Relations Commission (DHRC) met on March 17, 2026, at 6:00 p.m., with Chairman Mishoe Sudler presiding. Members present were Ms. Brinkley, Ms. White, Bishop Lott, Mr. Fleming, and Mr. Faust. Ms. Mullen was absent.

Staff members present were Ms. Wheeler.

Mr. Faust moved to table the public forum comments and start the meeting. The motion was seconded by Ms. Brinkley and unanimously carried.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Mr. Faust moved for approval of the agenda, seconded by Mr. Fleming, and unanimously carried.

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Ms. Brinkley moved to adopt the minutes from the Dover Human Relations Commission meeting on February 18, 2026. The motion was seconded by Mr. Fleming and unanimously carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS/UPDATES

Assessment

Dr. Mishoe Sudler stated that Ms. Mullens had provided him with a rough draft of an assessment she developed, which was primarily in the form of a questionnaire. He explained that once responses were collected, she planned to conduct additional follow-up efforts, which included surveys, questionnaires, and further assessments. He also noted that an overall assessment had already been created and would be available for their review as part of the report.

Community Programs

Mr. Faust stated that he had received a new batch of 211 resource cards for the commissioners who were not present at the previous meeting, and if they needed more cards, to let him know. He noted that he and Ms. Brinkley had dropped the 211 resource cards off at the library with his business card and at other locations. He reported that he went to a community center along North Dupont Highway that served individuals experiencing homelessness. He noted that the feedback he received was that when individuals contacted 211 for assistance, there were limited resources currently available, and many were being placed on waiting lists due to constraints in federal and state funding. He emphasized that, as a result, 211 may be experiencing funding shortages or may be exhausted, and stressed the need to brainstorm and identify alternative resources to better support those in need.

Dr. Sudler stated that he and Mr. Faust had visited a few places. He noted that he had a few visits with NeighborGood Partners Downtown, as well as a visit with them on March 18th at 12:00 p.m. He mentioned that if any of the commissioners were available, they could join the tabletop meeting.

Responding to Mr. Faust, Dr. Mishoe Sudler clarified that the first tabletop meeting was on Loockerman and the current meeting would be held between Division and New Street, and the contact person was Nneka Taylor.

Responding to Ms. White, Dr. Mishoe Sudler stated that the tabletop meeting started at 12:00 p.m.

Responding to Ms. White, Dr. Mishoe Sudler stated that there were few parking spaces behind the building, but more parking spaces on the street.

Responding to Ms. White, Dr. Mishoe Sudler stated to enter the building would be through the New Street side.

Responding to Mr. Muhammad, Dr. Mishoe Sudler stated that NeighborGood Partners has meetings with the downtown agencies and other state agencies to help bring support services to downtown.

Responding to Mr. Muhammad, Dr. Mishoe Sudler stated that NeighborGood Partners invites them to help them with support.

Responding to Mr. Muhammad, Dr. Mishoe Sudler stated that they would have a 10-minute public forum for the public and could ask questions.

Dr. Mishoe Sudler stated that he and Mr. Faust met with the Dover Coalition on February 19th and described the meeting as productive and informative. He noted that they were awaiting a response from the Dover Coalition regarding any additional requests, at which point they would discuss and determine which issues to bring forward. He also shared that a few other support agencies and nonprofit organizations have expressed interest in collaborating with the Dover Human Relations Commission to discuss proposed downtown activities and the support they are prepared to offer. He suggested to them that they might want to show up at the NeighborGood Partners meetings.

School Programs

Ms. White stated that she had not been able to meet to discuss the school programs.

Dr. Mishoe Sudler stated that although some schools observed spring break the previous week, local school districts had not. He emphasized the importance of preparing for the summer months by identifying and organizing activities for youth, and noted that he has been exploring what the city may be planning in that regard. He also highlighted that the Saturday Academy, in partnership with the library, has been engaging nonprofit organizations to provide programming focused on financial literacy, youth mental health, and the performing arts. He further added that they would be filling out an intake form and see how they would be able to receive support from them. He emphasized that they would not be able to help financially, but would help capture venues and be approved to lend space.

Bishop Lott had nothing to report.

By-laws

Ms. Brinkley stated that she would like to update the bylaws to make their role clearer to themselves and in the community. She noted that the last time the bylaws were updated was in 2004, and they needed an update as soon as the co-chairs' schedules and her schedule would allow. She further noted that she would like them to have a meeting so that they could update the bylaws.

Ms. White stated that some of the bylaws could stay in the order in which they were, and if there was anything that needed to be revised.

Responding to Ms. White, Dr. Mishoe Sudler stated that the details in the bylaws needed some changes, but the order was going to be the same. He noted that they were reviewing the terminology that was out of date for the procedures of the commission because there were some items that the commission no longer works with.

Dr. Mishoe Sudler stated that if they look at page 11 of the bylaws, specifically Article Five (5) regarding committees, in that section, they wanted to ensure that the verbiage accurately reflected the committees they were currently operating under. He asked that they take time to review Article Five (5) and provide any comments for the committees.

Finance

Dr. Mishoe Sudler stated that they have not made any major purchases and that the last purchase was for Ms. Brinkley's polo shirt.

Mr. Faust stated that it takes four (4) business days to receive the 211 resource cards; if any of the commissioners were running short, he could always order another stock of cards.

OLD BUSINESS

Discussion – Vacant Buildings (Sharon Duca, Assistant City Manager)

Ms. Sharon Duca, Assistant City Manager, reviewed the Vacant Buildings discussion with the commissioners.

Responding to Mr. Faust, Ms. Duca explained that in the case of unpaid taxes, properties may be sent to Sheriff's Sale after several cycles of unpaid taxes. Whether the city took ownership of the property depended on whether other individuals were interested in the property.

Responding to Mr. Faust, Ms. Duca stated that it has not been considered for the city to take on the role of retaining and maintaining properties or trying to support the community to purchase those properties. She noted that the intent was to recover the funds that were put through the property or the amount of funds that were lost through unpaid taxes. She explained that in cases involving dangerous buildings, if the property was brought before council and the owner failed to address the issues, the city may proceed with demolition, with the cost becoming a lien on the property. She noted that recovery of those funds depended on the priority of existing liens, which could sometimes create challenges for the city in recouping those funds.

Responding to Ms. Brinkley, Ms. Duca stated that, based on the last time the city properties were reviewed, there were no vacant buildings owned by the city. She noted that there may still be some remaining vacant land, but she would need to further review, looking at the size of the parcel and things of that nature, if they would be of any benefit.

Responding to Ms. Duca, Dr. Mishoe Sudler stated that he would like her to report back with her findings after reviewing the city's vacant properties, including the size of the parcels.

Responding to Ms. Brinkley, Ms. Duca stated that she could verify whether there are any buildings that do not provide financial benefit to the city when she reviews the properties; however, to her knowledge, all parcels with buildings are currently being used for city functions.

Responding to Ms. Brinkley, Ms. Duca stated that she would work with the GIS department to generate a list of city properties. She believed that there was a field that was associated with each department or entity of the city that utilized that property, or how they would maintain it. She noted that she would compile that information and attempt to have it ready for the next meeting, but depending on how the data was sorted, it could take a bit longer to compile.

Responding to Ms. Brinkley, Ms. Duca stated that the city properties were stored in the GIS system and could be exported as a spreadsheet. She noted that she would need to confirm that the specific information that they were requesting was being included before producing the report.

OPEN FORUM

Mr. Faust moved to have the Open Forum be open to the public. The motion was seconded by Ms. Brinkley and unanimously carried.

The Open Forum was held at 6:30 p.m., after commencement of the Dover Human Relations Meeting.

Mr. Omari Muhammad, a Dover Resident, appreciated that Dr. Mishoe Sudler and Mr. Faust came to the Dover Coalition meeting last month, but was still baffled and confused about the purpose of the Human Relations. He emphasized that the commission should be teaching the public about their fundamental rights. He questioned the commissioners about not seeing them out in the community. He pointed out that the Dover Coalition would be meeting on March 19th and noted that they take in everyone's intellect that could help them grow to become better. He highlighted that their theme was to make their community safe and a decent place to live.

Responding to Mr. Muhammad, Mr. Faust stated that the Dover Human Relations Commission goes wherever it is invited. He pointed out that most commissioners work, but some are retired. He explained that the Dover Human Relations Commission was a fact-finding body that does not make policy or make laws. Instead, when complaints were received, they were forwarded to the City Solicitor. If the Commission became involved, it would gather the information and submit the findings and recommendations to the city. He noted that his goal was to help the community and that he does not gain anything, but they do remain devoted to the community.

Responding to Mr. Muhammad, Dr. Mishoe Sudler clarified that the Dover Human Relations Commission was not responsible for addressing the Reginald Hannah case, which has been referred to the Delaware State Human Relations Commission, and that any further concerns should be directed to the State Attorney General's Office. He explained that the Dover Human Relations Commission structure and city policy prevent members from appearing together in the community at one (1) time because that would be creating a quorum, and they were not permitted to do that. He pointed out that the members were unpaid and involved in the community.

Mr. Fleming stated that the Dover Human Relations Commission's role was to identify and help prevent discrimination by reviewing complaints submitted to the City and then referred to the Commission for a resolution. He expressed that, despite serving on the Commission for years, he has not yet seen a discrimination complaint formally brought before them for review or action, even though he believed discrimination had occurred.

Dr. Mishoe Sudler explained that intake forms for discrimination complaints were available in paper form or online, but once submitted, they would first go to the City Clerk's Office for review and

would be screened to determine whether they were forwarded to the Dover Human Relations Commission. He expressed concern that the Commission did not see all the intake forms, even those that were deemed outside its scope, and argued that the Commission should still be able to review those forms. He emphasized that intake forms were important for identifying potential issues with city policies and procedures affecting residents and businesses, and stated that the Commission's role was to bring concerns to the City Council for review, even if it did not make final decisions.

Mr. Fleming stated that when individuals file intake forms highlighting their concerns and where they feel discriminated against, those forms goes to the City Solicitor for review. He noted that the City Solicitor has the option of stopping or forwarding the intake form to the Dover Human Relations Commission for resolution.

Dr. Mishoe Sudler stated that he was not looking to stop that procedure, but what he wanted to change was that the Commission still needed to know when the intake forms were received and know the community concerns.

Responding to Mr. Faust, Mr. Muhammad stated that the Dover Coalition meeting started at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, March 19th.

Responding to Mr. Muhammad, Bishop Lott referred to his earlier comment regarding the work of the commissioners, stating that he had been actively assisting individuals experiencing homelessness, helping with re-entry into the community, and providing food and housing. He emphasized that he had been visible and actively engaged in these efforts. He noted that he did not put a lot of emphasis on being in the public eye with the news and social media.

Reginald Daniel, Community Engagement Specialist at NeighborGood Partners Restoring Central Dover Program, emphasized the opportunity to teach the civic process as something confusing to understand. He raised concern that the Commission did not have access to intake forms and suggested involving the Commission and/or the Dover Coalition in discussions to advocate to the City Council for greater access to those forms. He also asked how they can make the intake forms more accessible to the residents of the community who may not be tech-savvy or have reliable access to smart devices. He emphasized that the Commission, and those in attendance, needed to find a way to work together, and find a way to make sure that the Dover Human Relations Commission have access to the intake form and that they advocate to the city council that they need to have access, and to have awareness and streamline the process so that every individual could rely and safely engage with the community.

Responding to Bishop Lott, Dr. Mishoe Sudler stated that since the intake form could be printed off and put in public places, the form could be placed in public places.

Responding to Bishop Lott, Dr. Mishoe Sudler stated that the Dover Coalition and NeighborGood Partners could have some intake forms for their locations. He noted that he handed out intake forms to the Dover Coalition.

Dr. Mishoe Sudler stated that locations such as the Post Office would be good because they have a public bulletin board with public announcements for the public.

Mr. Faust suggested having the intake forms posted up in City Hall by the information desk or at the synagogues.

Dr. Mishoe Sudler suggested locations such as doctors' offices and churches.

Mr. Fleming clarified that the intake form was completed by individuals who believed they were discriminated against or for some other reason, and once submitted to the city, it was reviewed not to withhold information from the Dover Human Relations Commission, but to determine whether another department may be better suited to address the issue more quickly or effectively. He emphasized that the review process was put in place by the city and was intended for the routing of complaints to the appropriate department.

Dr. Mishoe Sudler concurred with Mr. Fleming, but emphasized that even if an intake form was routed to another department, the Commission should still be notified that the complaint was received and redirected. He stated that receiving all notifications of all intake forms would help the Dover Human Relations Commission better understand the community concerns and evaluate how things were being perceived and where it could be more effective. He clarified that the request was not about the ability to make the approvals or make the decisions, but being informed when individuals submitted concerns to the Commission, even though those concerns were redirected to other departments.

Bishop Lopp stated that a concern was that individuals may feel intimidated by the intake form process and may not be able to properly articulate or write down the correct verbiage. He suggested a location where individuals could get proper assistance with that and be more apt to utilize the intake form.

Mr. Daniels suggested that NeighborGood Partners could make the intake forms available at their office near the intersection of Division Street and New Street, noting that teaching civic education was part of their mission. He added that they were well-positioned to help teach community members about the intake process and assist individuals in understanding how to properly complete the forms.

Ms. Brinkley stated that they could utilize the library to have a seminar, not to create a quorum, but to invite the public out to learn about the process and how to complete the intake form at the library on a specific evening.

Dr. Mishoe Sudler stated that he has a few individuals from a few agencies who were putting together the Saturday Academy program that would bring those particular services to be implemented.

Responding to Ms. White, Dr. Mishoe Sudler stated that he was not aware of a system in place to track or confirm how many intake forms were successfully taken care of.

Responding to Ms. White, Dr. Mishoe Sudler stated that he was not aware of a system in place to determine if intake form complaints were successfully resolved.

Ms. White questioned how effective the current complaint process was and noted that despite individuals submitting forms through the City Clerk's Office for the Dover Human Relations Commission, the individuals were still not being heard.

Ms. Brinkley suggested that updating and revising the bylaws was necessary, as the changes could help address the issue. She emphasized that implementing updates through the bylaws would be beneficial and urged that the revisions be completed as soon as possible.

Mr. Fleming suggested, based on the discussion, that they could invite one (1) of the city clerks or an intake staff member to explain the complaint process, specifically how intake forms are reviewed, routed, and determined to be assigned to the department.

Mr. Faust explained from his understanding that intake forms received by the City Clerk's Office are forwarded to the City Solicitor, who reviews them and determines the appropriate department for handling if they do not fall under the Dover Human Relations Commission's purview.

Ms. Brinkley concurred with Mr. Faust and noted that when Ms. Hall presented the Annual Report for the Dover Human Relations Commission, she addressed two (2) reports she had received. One (1) fell under review for the Commission, while the other involved the Police Department and was not within the Commission's purview.

ADJOURNMENT BY 7:00 P.M.

Mr. Faust moved for the adjournment of the Dover Human Relations Commission (DHRC) meeting, seconded by Ms. Brinkley, and unanimously carried. The meeting adjourned at 7:11 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 7:11 p.m.

Travis Mishoe Sudler, I
Chair

TMS/cw