

MEETING MINUTES: TRUTH Committee

Date: Wednesday, May 20, 2026

Time: 6:30 PM – 7:25 PM (Meeting called to order at 6:48 PM)

Location: VFW

1. Attendance

Members Present:

- Amber Green, Chair
- Kenisha Le’Cole, Vice-Chair
- Joe Venosa, Member

Liaisons & Representatives Present:

- Caroline O’Hare, City Liaison
- Melissa Holland, City Council Liaison

Guests Present:

- City Council Chair April Jackson
- Sergeant Hitty, Salisbury Police Department

2. Call to Order & Quorum

Chair Amber Green called the meeting to order at 6:48 PM.

3. Approval of Previous Minutes

- **April Meeting Minutes:** The minutes from the April committee meeting were reviewed.
- **Resolution:** A motion was made to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by Kenisha Le’Cole. The April minutes were approved with an abstention from Joe Venosa due to his absence from that meeting.

4. Old Business

The committee debriefed their previous, well-attended meeting regarding the submitted recommendations with City Administrator Nick, City Council President April Jackson, Kenisha Le’Cole, Sophia Peters, Chief Meinschein, and Captain Kerner.

- **Chief’s Request:** Chief Meinschein expressed strong interest in holding a dedicated meeting with the Truth Committee to thoroughly review and understand the recommendations. The committee unanimously agreed to schedule this session.
- **Recommendation 1 (Clarification of Policies):** The committee successfully obtained policy clarifications during their administrative meeting. Because the Salisbury Police

Department's policies are readily available online, Recommendation 1 is considered structurally resolved. The committee will pivot toward a social media campaign to inform the public where to find these documents.

- **Recommendation 2 (Public Transparency Protocol):** Chief Meinschein highlighted that while the department utilizes outside entities like the Attorney General's Office for investigations, legal "red tape" boundaries limit their ability to share certain information with the public.
- **Recommendation 3 (Standing Police Accountability Body):** The committee clarified that its goal is not to replace or replicate the Police Accountability Board (PAB) or affect case determinations. Instead, the focus is on identifying patterns, trends, and assisting with public community outreach to translate institutional processes.
- **Resolution:** Following advice from Nick, the committee will revise the recommendations document to reflect these updates and renumber the items. The revised version will be emailed to Nick for review before proceeding to the City Council. The committee agreed to move forward focusing directly on Recommendations 2 and 3 as written, rather than drafting new recommendations.

5. Salisbury Police Department Guest Presentation

Vice-Chair Kenisha Le'Cole introduced Sergeant Hitty, a 20+ year veteran of the Salisbury Police Department who serves as the Training, Recruiting, and Community Service Coordinator.

- **Current Programming:** Sergeant Hitty highlighted several agency initiatives, including the 10-week Citizens Police Academy (planning a second cohort for the fall), National Night Out (scheduled for August 4 in the City Park), a holiday outreach partnership with Sam's Club, and the Flag Football program at Wi-Hi Stadium.
- **Community Needs:** The primary need identified is consistent adult mentorship and presence, specifically at the Truitt Street Boys and Girls Club. Adults interested in coaching or volunteering should contact the Boys and Girls Club directly. For the flag football program, interested adults should contact Sergeant Hitty at the Salisbury Police Department at 410-548-3165 or thitty@salisburydpd.com.
- **Interagency & New Initiatives:** The department is coordinating neighborhood outreach with Deputy Whipple of the Sheriff's Office, including upcoming Special Olympics programming. Additionally, the department is designing a safety program for new young drivers to explain traffic stop expectations.
- **Partnership Proposal:** Vice-Chair Kenisha Le'Cole proposed that the Truth Committee formally partner with the department to co-host and launch the new driver program.
- **Data Selection:** Sergeant Hitty clarified that community events are intentionally rotated across all city sectors (e.g., West Side, Doverdale) to ensure equitable engagement and dispel community concerns regarding targeted surveillance.

6. Public Forum

- One members of the public was present but did not request to speak.

7. Community Engagement & Announcements

The committee identified several upcoming opportunities for community collaboration, historical preservation, and outreach:

- **Juneteenth Celebration (Sunday, June 14):** The Interfaith Eastern Shore Alliance (including Delmarva Free School, Young Men of Distinction, and Phoenix Youth Project) will host its event at the Pemberton Park Amphitheater. Dr. Charles Chavis Jr. will perform a special reading of *Silent Shore* regarding the historical lynching of Matthew Williams in Salisbury.
- **Queen City Elks Lodge Parade:** Taking place this upcoming Sunday, starting at First Baptist Church and proceeding up Delaware Avenue.
- **Chipman Cultural Center Support:** The center is hosting a "Jazz on Saturday" fundraiser at 6:00 PM to benefit structural building restorations. Amber asked about contact information for Chipman Cultural Center board.
- **Ms. April Jackson:** hosting yard sale and fish fry, to support community endeavors
- **Youth Ravens Camp Trip:** A community initiative is taking eight young men to a football camp hosted by Baltimore Ravens wide receiver Zay Flowers on July 11. VFW is providing vans, and local donations are being accepted for youth lunches (\$20 per child via Cash App to \$motherand2sons).
- **Haitian Flag Day:** Members noted the success of the recent Haitian celebration event.

8. Administrative Matters

- **Committee Chairs Meeting:** Chair Amber Green is waiting to hear back from the Mayor's administration regarding a proposal to hold regular collaborative meetings for all city committee chairs to streamline communication, clarify boundaries, and discuss shared spaces.

9. Adjournment & Next Steps

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 7:25 PM.

Action Items:

- **Amber Green:** Follow up with Emily and Nick to request a \$100–\$200 stipend from the committee's \$500 council budget to support bringing Dr. Charles Chavis Jr. to the local Juneteenth event.
- **Joe Venosa:** Attend the Chipman Cultural Center event on Saturday to connect with board leadership (Dr. Bessie Green) and attempt to secure a spot for the Truth Committee on their next board meeting agenda.
- **Truth Committee:** Coordinate a future meeting with Chief Meinschein to review the revised recommendations in depth.