



Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE)
Missing Endangered Persons Information Clearinghouse (MEPIC)
Advisory Board

Virtual Meeting

Friday, June 12th, 2026
9:30 AM to 2:00 PM (EST)

Mission Statement: Together with the citizens of Florida, we promote the safety of children and other vulnerable populations through public and private collaborations.

Meeting Minutes

Chairperson: Chief Investigator Darry Lloyd

Welcome

Meeting begins at 9:30 AM.

Roll Call

Advisory Board: Chairperson Darry Lloyd, Vice-Chair Mark Hensley, Sheriff Walt McNeil, Mr. Dan Campbell, Mr. Bill Corfield, Ms. Brandi Manley, Mr. Mark Young, Ms. Karen Mazzola, Ms. Stephanie White, Ms. Hilary Sessions, Dr. Kim Spence, Mr. John Robertson, Captain Peter Bergstresser, Ms. Logan McGee, Mr. Demarco Johnson, Mr. Travis Paulk, Ms. Julie Collins

FDLE: Director Melissa Bujeda, Assistant Special Agent in Charge (ASAC) John McClellan, Bureau Chief Heather Faulkner, Senior Attorney Phil Lindley, General Services Operations Manager (GSOM) Mehgen Peoples, Ms. Makenna Nix, Ms. Savannah Gray, Ms. Karli Prothro-Blomeley, Ms. Megan McDonald, Ms. Emma Elliott

Organizations and Individuals Represented: State Attorney 8th Circuit, St. Petersburg Police Department, Leon County Sheriff's Office, Impacted Missing Families, Target Corporation, The Jimmy Ryce Center for Victims of Predatory Abduction, Florida PTA, Tallahassee State College Florida Public Safety Institute, University of Central Florida (UCF) Center for Autism and Related Disabilities (CARD), Florida Network of Youth and Family Services, Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles, Florida Department of Juvenile Justice, Florida Department of Children and Families, Florida Department of Education

Florida Missing Children's Day Award Nominations

- **Citizen of the Year Award**
 - Because there was only one nomination received for this category, the single nomination is the automatic winner.
- **Young Hero Award**
 - There were no nominations received for this category.
 - Mr. Campbell suggests reviewing the criteria for this award category after voting on awards, with the idea that broadening the criteria may allow for more nominations in the future.
- **School Bus Operator of the Year Award**
 - Ms. Mazzola motions for the Board to accept nominee C-2 for the award. Sheriff McNeil seconds the motion.

- Ms. Mazzola explains that she chose based on the presence of imminent danger in nomination C-2. The Board votes in favor, and nomination C-2 is accepted as winner.
- Ms. Mazzola suggests choosing the Commissioner's Award first. GSOM Peoples and Ms. Nix suggest continuing in order and allowing the possibility of moving a winner or a tied choice for a given category to the Commissioner's Award or another special award at the end if desired.
- **Combatting Human Trafficking Award**
 - Mr. Corfield motions for the Board to accept nomination D-3 for the award. Ms. White seconds this motion. Chairperson Lloyd requests any discussion.
 - Mr. Corfield explains that he chose this nomination based on the teamwork displayed between law enforcement agencies and the dedication of the nominees working this case despite their heavy workloads.
 - There is discussion of how voting should proceed. Chairperson Lloyd clarifies that a vote is for or against the motion currently on the floor.
 - The Board discusses the impact of arresting a distributor of CSAM who may be distributing material to thousands of offenders as compared to the arrest of more offenders not known to be distributing CSAM.
 - Chairperson Lloyd requests a vote for or against nomination D-3.
 - The Board votes in favor of accepting nomination D-3 for the Combatting Human Trafficking Award.
- **Jimmy Ryce K9 Trailing Team of the Year**
 - A member asks if there is information on how long the nominated K9s tracked for or how long the child was missing in each nomination.
 - GSOM Peoples and Ms. Nix refer to the original nomination and explain that the information was not provided by the nominator.
 - Ms. White comments on the relative difficulty of tracking in various areas. She explains that wooded areas are typically the easiest, and difficult areas (many included in the nominations for this year) include busy multi-lane highways, neighborhood streets, over fences, and around railroad tracks.
 - Chairperson Lloyd requests a motion. Vice-Chair Hensley motions for the Board to accept nomination E-4 for this award. Mr. Campbell seconds the motion.
 - Chairperson Lloyd invites discussion from the Board. Hearing no discussion, there is a roll call vote, and nomination E-4 is unanimously approved.
- **Local Law Enforcement Officer of the Year**
 - Ms. White suggests nomination E-3 be considered for the Local Law Enforcement Officer of the Year Award. Ms. Manley also suggests nomination D-1 be considered for the Local Law Enforcement Officer of the Year Award.
 - Ms. Mazzola motions for the Board to accept nomination D-1 for the award. Mr. Corfield seconds this motion.
 - Ms. Mazzola explains that she chose this nomination based on the complexity of the investigation, interagency cooperation, and the linking of multiple reports.
 - The Board votes in favor of nomination D-1 for the Local Law Enforcement Officer of the Year Award.

- **State/Federal Law Enforcement Officer of the Year**

- Director Bujeda provides additional context on nomination G-5, having been closely involved in the operation from the nomination.
- Vice-Chair Hensley asks about the logic of awarding two individual nominees for work that, according to the nomination form, was done by multiple whole teams.
- Dr. Spence and Mr. Campbell both suggest moving nomination G-5 to Law Enforcement Task Force/Team of the Year.
- GSOM Peoples clarifies, after a question about FDLE's role in nomination G-5's operation, that only the individuals nominated will be awarded.
- Ms. White motions for the Board to accept nomination G-5 for the State/Federal Law Enforcement Officer of the Year Award. Ms. Manley seconds the motion.
- Chairperson Lloyd requests discussion from the Board. With no additional discussion, a vote is held and the Board votes in favor of nomination G-5 for the State/Federal Law Enforcement Officer of the Year Award.

- **Law Enforcement Task Force/Team of the Year**

- The Board discusses the two nominations for this category, weighing the differences between them (one being a sudden, dynamic response to an emergency situation versus a coordinated, planned response to meet a specific goal).
- GSOM Peoples clarifies that the criteria does not specify that the winning team has to be a formally established team.
- Captain Bergstresser from Florida Highway Patrol provides additional context on nomination H-1.
- Ms. Mazzola motions to accept nomination H-1 for the Law Enforcement Task Force/Team of the Year Award. Dr. Spence seconds the motion.
- Chairperson Lloyd asks for any discussion. Hearing no discussion, a voice vote is held, and nomination H-1 is unanimously approved for the Law Enforcement Task Force/Team of the Year.

- **Special Award Nominations**

- The Board discusses moving nominees into consideration for special awards.
- The special awards have the following nominees as possible winners:
 - Maple's Everyday Hero Award: E-3, G-2
 - Commissioner's Award: I-1, H-2
 - John and Reve Walsh Award: G-1
 - Evelyn Williams Memorial Award: I-1, G-2

- **Maple's Everyday Hero Award**

- Mr. Campbell motions for the Board to accept nomination E-3 for this award. Ms. Mazzola seconds the motion.
- Ms. White offers additional context for nomination E-3, saying that this team has done an impressive amount of tracking work.
- Chairperson Lloyd calls for a vote. The Board votes in favor of accepting nomination E-3 for Maple's Everyday Hero Award.

- **Commissioner's Award**

- Chairperson Lloyd asks for any discussion of nominations. Ms. White motions for the Board to accept nomination I-1 for this award.

- The Board votes in favor of suggesting nomination I-1 for the Commissioner's Award.
- **John and Reve Walsh Award and Evelyn Williams Memorial Award**
 - Chairperson Lloyd asks for any discussion of the single nominee, G-1. There is none. Since both the John and Reve Walsh Award and the Evelyn Williams Memorial Award only have one nomination (that hasn't been selected for another award), Chairperson Lloyd asks for a motion to accept the single nominees for both awards.
 - Sheriff McNeil motions accordingly. Ms. Mazzola seconds the motion. The Board votes in favor of suggesting nomination G-1 for the John and Reve Walsh Award and nomination G-2 for the Evelyn Williams Memorial Award.

Legislative Update

- Bureau Chief Faulkner summarizes several bills which are relevant to MEPIC Advisory Board interests, including bills which affect sex offender or career offender registration requirements, or which affect those convicted of sex crimes in Florida.

Spectrum Alert Update

- Ms. Nix explains that FDLE has completed the new Spectrum Alert training and that board members have a document with a QR code in their folder that links to the training. The training is intended for law enforcement, but anyone is welcome to view it.
- The Spectrum Alert will go live on July 1, 2026.
- Ms. Nix thanks Dr. Spence for her involvement in developing the training and says that her expertise was invaluable.

Summer Newsletter Discussion

- Ms. Nix will email the summer newsletter for Board members to review and vote to approve via SurveyMonkey.

Upcoming Board Tasks and/or Discussion

- Chairperson Lloyd brings up the possibility of the Board selling challenge coins to fundraise for the Florida Missing Children's Day Foundation.

Florida Missing Children's Day Update

- GSOM Peoples explains that the FMCD Foundation is continuing to fundraise.
- She explains that Ms. Nix has updated the FMCDF website to include stats, information, and an easily accessible donation page.
- GSOM Peoples shares the 2026 poster, billboard, and sticker design and reminds members that they have an invitation in their folders with a QR code for easy online RSVP.

MEPIC/CART Update

- GSOM Peoples provides the stats for alert recoveries from the past quarter.
- GSOM Peoples explains that she is working with SAS Aida Limongi to update Child Abduction Response Team (CART) procedures.

Adjournment

- Chairperson Lloyd asks for any further business. Hearing none, he requests a motion to adjourn. Ms. Mazzola motions accordingly. Major Hensley seconds the motion. Chairperson Lloyd asks for any objection from the Board. There is none; the meeting adjourns at 1:54 PM.