

*Wilmington, Delaware  
Louis L. Redding  
City/County Building  
March 31, 2016*

Council met in regular session on the above date at 6:00 p.m., President Theopolis K. Gregory, Sr. presiding.

Invocation was given by Joe Garcia.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by City Council.

### **ROLL CALL**

The following members responded to the Call of the Roll: Council Members Chukwuocha, Darius Brown, Shabazz, Prado, Dorsey Walker, Williams, Freel, Michael Brown, Walsh and Wright, and Council President Gregory. Total, eleven. Absent, Council Members Congo and Cabrera. Total, two.

President Gregory acknowledged dignitaries that were in attendance this evening.

### **SUSPENSION OF RULES**

Upon a motion of Ms. Walsh, seconded by Mr. Williams, Council suspended the rules in order for Mayor Dennis P. Williams to present his Budget Address. Motion prevailed.

Council Members Dorsey Walker and Williams escorted Mayor Dennis P. Williams and Mrs. Williams into the Council Chambers.

### **MAYOR'S STATE OF THE CITY ADDRESS - FISCAL YEAR 2017**

President Gregory, honorable members of City Council, City Treasurer Supinski, to my wife, First Lady Shayne Williams of the City of Wilmington, my Administration and City employees who I thank so dearly for the hard work you do for our City and my fellow Wilmingtonians and all other elected officials, I want to thank each and every one of you for being here tonight.

President Gregory, I want to thank you for allowing me to speak before Council, and the opportunity to present my State of the City Address. Thank you so much. Ladies and gentlemen, on January 8, 2013, we started this journey together. We started working to build safe and strong neighborhoods. We started creating sustainable job opportunities for local residents. We started making city government operate more efficiently to better serve our citizens. We started opening our doors to welcome new businesses and development projects and that have created new economic growth across the city.

We introduced new arts and cultural events and free music festivals to bring energy downtown. Some of those events itself have drawn over 50,000 people between the Jazz Festival and the Blues Festival. We started new opportunities for our youth through job programs, internships and extracurricular activities.

We started all of these efforts together, and we can't stop now! And, these efforts are starting to pay off ladies and gentlemen; hundreds of apartments' downtown are full. There's more than \$350 million worth of private investment taking place in our City - \$350 million of private money during an economic downturn. Approximately 200,000 tickets were sold to performances at The Grand, The Playhouse, The Café Live at the Queen and Delaware Theatre Company - 200,000 tickets ladies and gentlemen – 200,000 tickets. Let's talk about economic development.

### **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

With over 53,000 people employed in the City of Wilmington, our city's unemployment rate has dropped 3.7% since I took office – 3.7 since I took office. Over nearly 2,000 more workers are here in the City of Wilmington before the Great Recession. We are working to keep people employ ladies and gentlemen. This Administration wants people to work and to keep businesses coming into our City.

We can see the growing; many new, modern housing opportunities popping up across the City; Market Street Village, Walnut Street Development Project, the Lofts at Clifford Brown Walk, the expansion of the Harlan Flats. In addition housing - four new hotels are also being built along downtown and the Riverfront. But also development projects underway like Harper Thiel, which would bring new shopping options to a local neighborhood such as The Ninth Ward. Since taking office, over 3,000 new business licenses from multiple businesses have been issued in the City of Wilmington, 21 new storefronts opened in downtown Wilmington, and over 400 local businesses received entrepreneurial training and technical assistance through the City's Diverse Business Exchange. I want to thank personally Jeff Flynn, Alfred Lance and Steven Williams of Economic Development. And, Let us talk about our youth.

### **YOUTH**

Everyone says the City of Wilmington we don't have anything to do for our children. Well, I find that hard to believe and first of all, I want to take my hat off to Dr. Jacquelyn Jenkins who has spearheaded our Educational Pilot Program dealing directly with our City kids. Ladies and gentlemen we cannot continue to deal with a fail system and say, we'll just pass it off to the State. No, we cannot do that. We have to take full responsibility for our children. These are our children in the City of Wilmington. Their failure is our failure.

Under my Administration, the Parks and Recreation has rededicated itself to the mental and physical needs of our children. Gone are the days of an unlocked gym with a basketball being rolled around in a court. Today, our youth need more. Over the past three years, the Department of Parks and Recreation has continued to increase the

funding for the Summer Youth Employment program. Through this program, children of the aged 14 to 20 years old learn about job readiness, customer service, financial literacy, conflict resolution, how to get up and go to work. In 2015, the number of youth earned summer jobs rose to 570 under this Administration ladies and gentlemen – under this Administration.

In addition to Youth Employment and Parks and Recreation, education of our youths' are offered access to college tours, SAT preparatory courses, and college career fairs. These are things that are needed to our children. We have to take our children, send them to colleges, we have to give them prep test and we have to take them and let them see there's more than just Wilmington, Delaware or the State of Delaware ladies and gentlemen.

More importantly, the department oversees the Summer Food Program. 18,000 meals are served to our children ladies and gentlemen – 18,000 meals. The City of Wilmington is doing due diligence in everything that they can to take care of its children in this City. You can clap on that.

My office has rolled their sleeves up. Since being in office, I've more than quadrupled the Office of Mayor's Academic Scholarship Fund. You can clap on that too. My office has hosted several game day events at local community. Well I even played PlayStation by the way and I bet I can beat everybody in this room and a lot of kids didn't believe I could play PlayStation until I played them. And, I felt that it's necessary for a Mayor to be able to go down on some of the kid's levels. Kids trust you more; they understand you more and they believe you're a real person. So many adults today talk about what they're going to do for the youth but they're just talking. They don't do anything and they don't deliver and that's the reason why we have so much distrust between our young people and adults today and you can clap on that too. We also hosted the Back to School Concert and passed out nearly 1,250 stuffed book bags for children in need.

### **EFFECTIVE CITY GOVERNMENT**

We know that our City has to make moves to go into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. One of things that I promised and I commended myself on – and I have to commend myself on this that, that we wanted to offer high-quality customer service. I do not believe in city employees and department heads who are berating fellow workers and customers and I expressed to them more than ever before, the people that call into these City building, the Police Department, the Fire Department, they are our customers and they're going to get respect no matter what the consequences will be to the individual who disrespects our customers. And, I will be the person that makes that determination because I am a leader and I'm not afraid to make tough decisions and you can clap on that also.

Now, I know that everybody sitting here waiting for the turkey to drop – the public safety. Oh I know you're waiting for that – just a juicy we're on public safety. I know you can't wait; I see you Norman smiling from ear to ear. But, let's talk about public safety.

## **PUBLIC SAFETY**

In 2014, I created the Wilmington Police first-ever homicide unit. We added 12 officers to the Homicide/Violent Crimes Unit and let me tell you why we've done that. We looked at the way the complaints that officers were getting and they were getting piled up and we just felt that it wasn't enough and there was some public pressure. And again, leadership comes with a price. You have to be able to listen to your constituency and sometimes you will stand for you believe in and sometimes you will make a decision based on what your theory is along with your constituency. And, I heard my constituency loud and clear. They wanted a Homicide Unit and the Mayor sat down with many, many of the leaders who wanted a Homicide Unit, and guess what? Today, we have one and you can clap on that.

The Homicide Unit last year cleared 50 percent of the homicide cases, which is a great improvement over the past few years which was a dismal 12 percent, which was embarrassing. When I took over the homicide rate plan was 12, 11, 10 and 15 percent; unbelievable. I dropped my head in shame. I said this cannot be tolerated; we have to change – we have to make changes and we did. Also, the men and women of the Homicide Unit cleared six cold cases last year and it gave families closures. People who've lost loved ones. Now, are seeing these people coming to court and arrested and it's vindicated those folks and their families and they feel very good because now their loved ones are at rest with them because they wanted to make sure that the people who assaulted and killed their loved one was brought to justice and now they are being brought to justice and you can clap on that.

We also work with the VRN (Violence Reduction Network). A lot of people didn't understand the VRN. The Violence Reduction Network is an elite unit of federal agents who've worked with our police officers and our detectives to make them move in a very positive direction such as the Blue Courage Training. All officers should know when they put a uniform on you don't have to be assigned to unit to call yourself a police community officer. That doesn't make sense. A police officer is trained to treat people with respect twenty-four seven. There's times, like a faucet, you turn it on, you turn it off. I know because I wore the uniform. When you arrest people, if people get a little silly and don't want to act right, than you have to do your thing with them but when people acting normal and not resisting police officers and disrespecting the community, you'll be a community police officer. You adjust; you talk to them; you speak, "how are you; how's things going"? And, you know, you don't have to swell all up and flecks yourself like a cat does and try to intimidate people because that turns people off. But when people act out, people will be arrested and that's the way it is. But police officers should know when to turn that on and off. You know, people get upset and they say they want their police and community relations officer well they have one because these folks are not rotated out of the community and I think that they're a good job. I think a lot of times that we see things that we dislike and we have a right to do that. I think it's a political football kicked around.

But, you know, this Administration is not going to entertain that. I mean, we're going to work to do everything that we can to build relationships with the community. It's something that we've done and it's something that I pride myself on and I do believe that we've discipline more police officers for disrespecting civilians than the history of this City and we will continue to do that and you can clap on that because that's what leadership is all about ladies and gentlemen.

I hired Commissioner Ramsey who is the top cop in the nation who ran D.C. Police Department, Philadelphia Police Department and he was a high ranking officer in the Chicago Police Department. Commissioner Ramsey is, is, is, is an honorable guy, he pretty much has chased me away from the police department and I respect that. He knows his stuff and I'm not going to question him; and, he's an honorable man and I think I made a good decision and brought him in to help to us and get us on the right track. Have we made some mistakes? Yes, we have. But, we are trying to change everything that we can do to adjust ourselves to this crime problem. And, anybody in this room that thinks you're going to make crime disappear, than Santa Claus drops presents down the chimney on the 25<sup>th</sup> of December. You're never going to make this crime problem disappear. Let's always remember one thing; let's talk about jobs; let's talk about education. When you don't have those two things and you keep putting people back in prison who get out of prison because there's nothing for them to do and nowhere for them to work and we all keep talking about we want to do things, but we sit on our hands and we don't do it. That's the problem ladies and gentlemen and that's one of reasons why this Administration and this Mayor believes in second chances. I hope Yu Gundy doesn't mind me calling him tonight. I'm definitely going to call him out. He was a person that we looked at that was in the final group; he bet everybody out and some folks said that you know you're going to have a problem with that. Why am I going to have a problem with that? Here we go again. People are afraid. People are afraid of people who had a brush with the law. Hell, I had a brush with the law. I made it. I got a second chance; that's why I'm here today. You can clap on that.

Also, you know, look at Ed Penkowski and I hope Ed doesn't get upset with me. I don't know if he's here or not. Ed is a good man; hey Ed, how you doing, how you doing my man? My man - same problem, people told me no, you don't want to do that and I said oh yeah, we're going to do that. We're going to give him a chance. Because you know what, when people fall down, if we don't help them, I don't know, how can you even sit there and feel good about yourself and talk about well we want to bring this crime down but you don't want to give people another chance. Well, this Administration gives people a chance and, I truly feel good about what we've done and both of them are doing a hell of job and I want to thank both of you.

And, ladies and gentlemen, we're not going to stand here and tell you that everything we do is right and we're not going to win the battle on crime. We're going to hold crime down. But if you look at there's only probably three percent of the people in this City acting like fools with guns. The proliferation of fire arms are all over this nation. We need to start talking about gun control and stop worrying about the 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment.

We're not fighting the bears and wild animals anymore. We have an armed militia. So, why do we keep worrying about gun control? Why do people need automatics? Why do people need M60's? Tell me why? It doesn't make sense. When they go to bus stops, Richmond, Virginia today, multiple people shot; police officer shot. I was just through there yesterday. My family and I and I'm saying to myself, you know, we keep talking about these folks with guns but most of the guns that are being used today are legal firearms. These folks are getting firearms from people who are purchasing these firearms for them and we're locking up because they call us in twenty-four hours and say, oh I lost my gun, we know you did right; yeah. And then after a little investigation we arrest these people. But, you know, if you can buy five hand guns in a matter of forty-eight hours that is ridiculous; ridiculous! And, my officers are fighting their butts off. They're out there every day, every night and they're slugging it out. And, if anybody doesn't believe it, I feel sorry for you. I'm out there at four o'clock in the morning and I know what they do. They work their butts off. They're catching these folks with guns and people are rotating them letting them out. That's an issue we're going to deal with soon also, but again, let's give our hand to the Fire Department and the Wilmington Police Department. And ladies and gentlemen, I don't stand behind them 100%. I stand in front of them 150%. Right; you can clap on that.

### **HEALTHCARE**

One of our biggest problems ladies and gentlemen we're going to be looking at is our healthcare situation and it's a major thing that our employees enjoy but it's something that we're going to have face. We can't kick the can down the road and not pay attention to this because this is going to escalate to a point where it will bankrupt us one day if we don't work on this. And this Administration is already working on a three-year strategic healthcare plan to curb the cost and the General Fund is just not going to be able to sustain this in the future. So, we're going to be looking at that and again, here we go, leadership comes with a price. You can't play games with it. It's going to bankrupt us; I know it and people are angry but this Mayor is putting forth a three-year plan where we're going to deal with it. We're going to deal with or we won't be able to pay it. I thank my staff who sat down with us and looked at this and I thank City Council President for his diligence and he knows that – he knows where we're going with this. He a - - we've talked and he talked to Mr. Fullman and I think we're right on target. I know we're going to have to work side by side across the hall so we're able to get this done and we're going to do that.

In closing, I just want to say that I've made several promises. When I campaigned the last three years, I promised no lay-offs. No City workers were laid-off. I promised a pay raise. City workers got a pay raise. I promised to streamline our payment procedures for tickets, water bills and other permitting fees. That's going to take place this summer. I also promised to build a skate park. Me and Representative Keeley, I respect her so much, she got so much money from the Bond Bill for us as a Skate Park and Wellness Plaza; we've raised almost a million dollars in private funding. I think we're doing all right with that. I really do. It will be a place for our young people to go, our teenagers to go and skate and be safe and it will be beautiful skating park. We've brought one of the

best in the country from Sanford, I'm sorry from Seattle, Washington. Those folks have done several in Philadelphia, Chicago and New York so that's why we decided to choose them. We didn't want anybody coming in and two weeks later the pillars are sunk in and something going crazy; the kids upset because they can't skate. We didn't want that. We wanted the professionals to come in build it right and build it good. I also promised no tax/water increase. Well, I did that. But it was very minimum because I'm not a big tax and spend fan. I'm a Democrat but I don't believe in gauging people's wallets and pocketbooks and you can write that. I also promised to span our youth programs throughout the City and we did that. I also promised to do summer jobs; multiple, multiple, multiple programs for kids and scholarships and our summer jobs; our pools are even open early. First time in history, Wilmington pools opened before Memorial Day in the City of Wilmington. I promised to bring new development projects to the City of Wilmington. Well, I think we're doing that when folks spend three-hundred fifty million dollars of their own money, I think we're doing it. We're also looking at – we just got a piece of legislation done and its hit Dover for a new arena and President Gregory I want to thank you for walking with us side by side. I want to thank you so much and I want to thank you for your letter and your calls to the General Assembly and I'm quite sure when they got your calls and your letter, they noticed the partnership which we explained, this is going to be major construction jobs; over a hundred and some jobs when this arena opens up and I know we're going to get arena ladies and gentlemen and I stated four-years ago, we want Wilmington to have what major cities have but on a smaller scale. And I see Bud counting those dollars already. I can look at his face. But I can tell you this, you're going to be surprised how this thing gets funded and it's not going to hurt the taxpayers. The City and the taxpayers and the State and the taxpayers will get some money back the way this thing is set up. And, I want to thank each and every one of you tonight and God Bless you and God Bless the City of Wilmington and to the firemen and to the Police Department, I know we have some issues with contracts but we're going to get her done and I know Charlotte is going to kill me because I wasn't supposed to say that but I want you to know, we're going to get her done. Thank you so much and God Bless all of you.

President Gregory: We're going to return to our regular order of business. If folks want to fall out, we'll give you a moment to do that as we entertain some motions to keep the meeting moving.

Upon a motion of Ms. Walsh, seconded by Mr. Freel/Ms. Shabazz, Council returned to regular order of business. Motion prevailed.

### **REGULAR ORDER OF BUSINESS - MINUTES**

After reading a portion of the minutes of March 3, 2016, upon a motion of Ms. Walsh, seconded by Mr. Williams/Ms. Shabazz/Mr. Freel, it was moved they be accepted as written. Motion prevailed.

## TREASURER'S REPORT

The following Treasurer's Report dated March 31, 2016 was read into the record by the City Clerk, and upon a motion of Ms. Walsh, seconded by Ms. Shabazz, the Report was received, recorded and filed. Motion prevailed.

**TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF WILMINGTON March 31, 2016**

102	Community Development Block Grant	M & T Bank	\$ 1.00
104	Old Non-Uniform Pension Account	M & T Bank	\$ 3,396.81
105	Police Pension Account	M & T Bank	\$ 6,412.96
106	Fire Pension Account	M & T Bank	\$ 2,839.22
107	Evidence/Found Currency Account	M & T Bank	\$ 649,050.38
108	Rent Withholding Escrow	M & T Bank	\$ 4,137.97
110	Capital Projects Account	M & T Bank	\$ 1.00
113	Non-Uniform Pension	M & T Bank	\$ 1,252.06
114	Central Deposit	M & T Bank	\$ 38,061.21
117	Cement Workers	Wilmington Savings Fund	\$ 33,474.96
118	Worker's Comp. 3 <sup>rd</sup> Party Account	M & T Bank	\$ 13,003.23
124	Non-Uniform Pension Act of 1990	M & T Bank	\$ 36,710.76
120	Grant-In-Aid Account	M & T Bank	\$ 201,369.00
130	Payroll	M & T Bank	\$ 238,371.49
131	Pension Payroll Account	M & T Bank	\$ 21,563.78
139	Pension Healthcare Account	M & T Bank	<u>\$ 2,394.52</u>
	Total Cash on Hand		<b>\$ 1,252,040.35</b>

*[this space intentionally left blank]*



FUND CODE	FUND	INSTITUTION	INVEST. TYPE	MATURITY DATE	INTEREST RATE	INTEREST RECEIVABLE	INVESTMENT AMOUNT
116	General	M&T Bank	RP	03/31/16	0.01%	\$ 1.77	\$ 6,429,869.00
116	General	WSFS	CD	04/01/16	0.40%	\$ 1,012.60	\$ 2,200,000.00
116	General	TD	CD	04/01/16	0.30%	\$ 772.61	\$ 1,000,000.00
116	General	TD	CD	04/08/16	0.50%	\$ 1,277.78	\$ 2,000,000.00
116	General	TD	CD	04/08/16	0.43%	\$ 1,007.26	\$ 1,500,000.00
116	General	WSFS	CD	04/15/16	0.40%	\$ 876.71	\$ 1,600,000.00
116	General	TD	CD	04/27/16	0.45%	\$ 750.00	\$ 1,500,000.00
116	General	TD	CD	04/29/16	0.50%	\$ 3,888.89	\$ 4,000,000.00
116	General	WSFS	CD	04/29/16	0.40%	\$ 859.17	\$ 1,600,000.00
116	General	WSFS	CD	05/13/16	0.45%	\$ 1,380.82	\$ 2,000,000.00
110	Capital	WSFS	CD	05/20/16	0.40%	\$ 19,945.20	\$ 10,000,000.00
110	Capital	WSFS	CD	05/27/16	0.40%	\$ 11,199.99	\$ 14,000,000.00
116	General	TD	CD	05/27/16	0.50%	\$ 1,833.34	\$ 2,000,000.00
116	General	TD	CD	06/01/16	0.55%	\$ 4,262.50	\$ 3,000,000.00
116	General <sup>1</sup>	TD	CD	06/10/16	0.60%	\$ 21,996.05	\$ 15,169,686.00
110	Capital	TD	CD	06/24/16	0.60%	\$ 16,333.34	\$ 10,000,000.00
514	Risk Management	WSFS	CD	07/11/16	0.40%	\$ 22,805.15	\$ 5,670,097.05
515	Worker's Comp	WSFS	CD	07/11/16	0.40%	\$ 22,805.15	\$ 5,670,097.05
110	Capital	WSFS	CD	11/18/16	0.50%	\$ 99,726.02	\$ 20,000,000.00
104	Escrow Pension	Affinity Wealth					\$ 1,430,488.00
104	Escrow Pension	Vanguard					\$ 40,547,634.00
104	Escrow Pension	Black Rock					\$ 24,983,240.00
104	Escrow Pension	Edgar Lomax					\$ 22,211,743.00
104	Escrow Pension	Wilmington Trust					\$ 44,961,240.00
104	Escrow Pension	Manning & Napier					\$ 10,121,026.00
104	Escrow Pension	Earnest Partners					\$ 17,286,344.00
104	Escrow Pension	GMO					\$ 11,360,722.00
104	Escrow Pension	MFS Management					\$ 21,843,624.00
104	Escrow Pension	American Funds					\$ 9,704,707.00
139	Medical Escrow	Black Rock-OPEB					\$ 13,587,084.00
116	Deferred Comp.	MassMutual					\$ 39,014,431.00
	Total Investments						\$ 366,392,032.10
	Total Cash on Hand						\$ 1,252,040.35
	Grand Total						\$ 367,644,072.45

<sup>1</sup> Budget Reserve

/s/Henry W. Supinski  
City Treasurer

## LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS

President Gregory: We're going to dispense from calling all these Council Members, we're going straight to Mr. Freel with respect to the financial legislation. Mr. Freel.

Mr. Freel: Yes sir, there's five ordinances for first and second to make up the Budget package.

Mr. Freel presented and called for the first and second reading Ordinance No. 16-014 (Agenda #4183) entitled:

AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING A RATE OF TAXATION  
ON REAL PROPERTY AND THE TAXABLE PROPERTY OF  
PUBLIC UTILITIES FOR THE FISCAL YEAR JULY 1, 2016  
THROUGH JUNE 30, 2017

The aforementioned Ordinance was given two separate readings by title only and upon a motion of Mr. Freel, seconded by Ms. Walsh, it was received, recorded and referred to the Finance Committee. Motion prevailed.

Mr. Freel presented and called for the first and second reading Ordinance No. 16-015 (Agenda #4184) entitled:

AN ORDINANCE REGARDING SEWER SYSTEM UNIT  
CHARGES AND WATER RATES AND CHARGES AND  
STORM WATER RATES AND CHARGES SET FORTH  
IN CHAPTER 45 OF THE CITY CODE

The aforementioned Ordinance was given two separate readings by title only and upon a motion of Mr. Freel, seconded by Ms. Walsh/Ms. Shabazz, it was received, recorded and referred to the Finance Committee. Motion prevailed.

Mr. Freel presented and called for the first and second reading Ordinance No. 16-016 (Agenda #4185) entitled:

AN ORDINANCE TO ADOPT A CAPITAL PROGRAM FOR  
THE SIX FISCAL YEARS 2017 – 2022 INCLUSIVE

The aforementioned Ordinance was given two separate readings by title only and upon a motion of Mr. Freel, seconded by Mr. Williams/Ms. Walsh, it was received, recorded and referred to the Finance Committee. Motion prevailed.

Mr. Freel presented and called for the first and second reading Ordinance No. 16-017 (Agenda #4186) entitled:

AN ORDINANCE TO ADOPT A CAPITAL BUDGET FOR  
FISCAL YEAR 2017

The aforementioned Ordinance was given two separate readings by title only and upon a motion of Mr. Freel, seconded by Ms. Walsh/Mr. Williams, it was received, recorded and referred to the Finance Committee. Motion prevailed.

Mr. Freel presented and called for the first and second reading Ordinance No. 16-018 (Agenda #4187) entitled:

AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING THE ANNUAL OPERATING  
BUDGET FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING ON  
JULY 1, 2016 AND ENDING ON JUNE 30, 2017

The aforementioned Ordinance was given two separate readings by title only and upon a motion of Mr. Freel, seconded by Ms. Walsh/Mr. Williams, it was received, recorded and referred to the Finance Committee. Motion prevailed.

*Note: There were no committee reports, no non-legislative resolutions and no petitions and communications presented this evening.*

**ADJOURNMENT**

Upon a motion of Ms. Walsh, seconded by Mr. Williams, Council adjourned at 6:32 p.m. Motion prevailed.

Attest:   
Maribel Seijo, City Clerk