

RES 16-006

Wilmington, Delaware
February 4, 2016

#4157

Sponsors:

**Council
President
Gregory**

**Council
Member
D. Brown
Chukwuocha**

Co-Sponsor:

**Council
Member
Shabazz**

WHEREAS, by its Ordinance No. 97-051, amending Section 2-363 of the City Code, the City Council deemed it necessary and proper to specify the requirements for review and approval of City-sponsored grant applications and proposals, including a requirement for City Council approval by resolution; and

WHEREAS, the City of Wilmington Department of Real Estate and Housing, seeks to apply for the City, or an area within the City, to be determined to be a "Promise Zone" by the United State Department of Housing and Urban Development; and

WHEREAS, in his 2013 State of the Union Address, President Barack Obama announced an initiative to designate a number of high-poverty urban, rural and tribal communities as "Promise Zones", where the federal government will partner with and invest in communities to create jobs, leverage private investment, increase economic activity, expand educational opportunities, and reduce violent crime; and

WHEREAS, communities compete for the Promise Zone designation in an application process, demonstrating the strength and effectiveness of their local partners' commitment. Each designated Promise Zone will be asked to identify outcomes they will pursue to revitalize their communities, develop a strategy supporting those outcomes, and realign resources accordingly; and

WHEREAS, the Promise Zone designation partners the federal government with local leaders who are addressing multiple community revitalization challenges in a collaborative way and have demonstrated a commitment to results; and

WHEREAS, Promise Zones will be assigned Federal staff to help navigate the array of Federal assistance and programs already available to them. In addition,

Promise Zones will receive preference for certain competitive Federal grant programs and technical assistance; and

WHEREAS, subject to enactment by the United States Congress, businesses investing in Promise Zones or hiring residents of Promise Zones will be eligible to receive tax incentives. This package of assistance is intended to help local leaders accelerate efforts to revitalize their communities; and

WHEREAS, the Promise Zone designation will last for a term of 10 years.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WILMINGTON that the Department of Real Estate and Housing is hereby authorized to apply, or to retain the assistance of professionals familiar with the application process to aid the City, or a part thereof, to be designated a "Promise Zone" by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development so that if such a Promise Zone is designated, the Department of Real Estate and Housing may then apply for further economic assistance consistent with the Promise Zone program.

Passed by City Council,
February 4, 2016

ATTEST: Maribel Seijo
City Clerk

Approved as to form this
3rd day of February, 2016

Craig W.
Assistant City Solicitor

SYNOPSIS: This Resolution authorizes the Department of Real Estate and Housing to apply, or to retain the assistance of professionals familiar with the application process to aid the City, or a part thereof, to be designated a "Promise Zone" by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.