

*Wilmington, Delaware  
Louis L. Redding  
City/County Building  
February 2, 2017*

Council met in regular session on the above date at 6:30 p.m., President Hanifa Shabazz presiding.

At this time, a silent reflection was done.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by City Council.

### **ROLL CALL**

The following members responded to the Call of the Roll: Council Members Chukwuocha, Congo, Oliver, Harlee, Turner, McCoy, Williams, Freel, Adams, Dixon, Guy and Council President Shabazz . Total, twelve. Absent with leave, Council Member Walsh.

### **MINUTES**

After reading a portion of the minutes of January 19, 2017, upon a motion of Council Member Freel, seconded by Council Member Williams, it was moved, as corrected\*, they be accepted as written. Motion prevailed.

\*Note: Councilman Freel noted that on the January 19<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes, the vote on Resolution No. 17-008 was inadvertently stated as 9 Yeas and 4 Nays. The correct vote was 8 Yeas and 5 Nays.

### **REPORT OF COMMITTEES**

No committee reports were presented this evening.

### **TREASURER'S REPORT**

The following Treasurer's Report dated February 2, 2017 was read into the record by the City Clerk and upon a motion of Council Member Freel, seconded by Council Member Williams, the Report was received, recorded and filed. Motion prevailed.

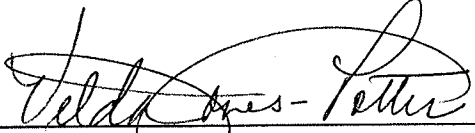
*Note: The Treasurer's Report is included herein as an insert from Page 2 through Page 3.*

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF WILMINGTON FEBRUARY 2, 2017

102	Community Development Block Grant	M & T Bank	\$1.00
104	Old Non-Uniform Pension Account	M & T Bank	\$715.81
105	Police Pension Account	M & T Bank	\$3,199.37
106	Fire Pension Account	M & T Bank	\$3,425.76
107	Evidence/Found Currency Account	M & T Bank	\$336,516.17
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	\$19,072.18
114	Central Deposit	M & T Bank	\$38,431.12
117	Cement Workers	Wilmington Savings Fund	\$33,506.43
118	Worker's Comp. 3 <sup>rd</sup> Party Account	M & T Bank	\$0.00
124	Non-Uniform Pension Act of 1990	M & T Bank	\$7,209.12
120	Grant-In-Aid Account	M & T Bank	\$402,738.00
130	Payroll	M & T Bank	\$129,510.34
131	Pension Payroll Account	M & T Bank	\$100,479.04
139	Pension Healthcare Account	M & T Bank	<u>\$68,659.30</u>
	Total Cash on Hand		<b>\$1,147,602.61</b>

Fund Code	Fund	Institution	Invest. Type	Maturity Date	Interest Rate	Interest Receivable	Investment Amount
116	General	M&T Bank	RP	2/2/2017	0.01%	\$3.70	\$7,839,859.00
116	General	WSFS	CD	2/16/2017	0.65%	\$961.64	\$2,000,000.00
116	General	TD	CD	3/2/2017	0.61%	\$1,096.33	\$1,600,000.00
124	Non-Uniform 1990	WSFS	CD	2/27/2017	0.65%	\$1,795.07	\$3,600,000.00
106	Fire Pension	WSFS	CD	2/27/2017	0.65%	\$306.60	\$615,000.00
105	Police Pension	WSFS	CD	2/27/2017	0.65%	\$349.04	\$700,000.00
110	Capital	WSFS	CD	3/16/2017	0.65%	\$9,794.52	\$10,000,000.00
116	General	TD	CD	3/2/2017	0.63%	\$1,486.11	\$2,100,000.00
116	General <sup>1</sup>	TD	CD	5/1/2017	0.67%	\$25,488.74	\$15,428,510.18
110	Capital	WSFS	CD	2/2/2017	0.45%	\$8,476.02	\$5,500,000.00
116	General	WSFS	CD	2/3/2017	0.49%	\$2,094.24	\$2,400,000.00
110	Capital	TD	CD	2/16/2017	0.49%	\$17,966.67	\$10,000,000.00
116	General	TD	CD	2/17/2017	0.48%	\$2,633.34	\$2,500,000.00
110	Capital	WSFS	CD	5/5/2017	0.55%	\$50,630.13	\$20,000,000.00
514	Risk Management	WSFS	CD	7/10/2017	0.50%	\$35,245.13	\$7,068,391.71
515	Worker's Comp	WSFS	CD	7/10/2017	0.50%	\$35,245.13	\$7,068,391.71
104	Escrow Pension	Vanguard					\$46,585,708.00
104	Escrow Pension	Black Rock					\$23,454,882.00
104	Escrow Pension	Edgar Lomax					\$25,072,376.00
104	Escrow Pension	Wilmington Trust					\$45,889,264.00
104	Escrow Pension	Manning & Napier					\$11,352,682.00
104	Escrow Pension	Earnest Partners					\$19,869,203.00
104	Escrow Pension	MFS Management					\$23,101,016.00
104	Escrow Pension	American Funds					\$11,213,755.00
139	Medical Escrow	Vanguard-OPEB					\$15,842,265.00
116	Deferred Comp.	MassMutual					\$42,130,424.42
	Total Investments						\$362,931,728.02
	Total Cash on Hand						\$1,147,602.61
	Grand Total						\$364,079,330.63

<sup>1</sup> Budget Reserve

  
Velda Jones-Potter, City Treasurer

## **NON-LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS**

Upon a motion of Council Member Williams, seconded by Council Member Chukwuocha, the following non-legislative resolutions were accepted into the record and motion prevailed:

All Council	Sympathy Harold A. Lindsay, Sr.
All Council	Sympathy Fred T. Johnson
Guy	Recognize Tyrek Taylor, Nana Ohemaa Asante, Madison Washington and Jane Rubini
Harlee	Sympathy Kyle D. Watson
Oliver	Sympathy Robert G. (Chiney) Miller Jr.
Shabazz	Sympathy Jamiere D. Harris, Sr.
Shabazz	Congratulations and Best Wishes, former Council Member Michael A. Brown, Sr.
Shabazz	Sympathy Charlotte Jean Patterson-Smith

## **LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS**

President Shabazz: Council Member Chukwuocha.

Council Member Chukwuocha: Nothing tonight Madame President.

Thank you.

President Shabazz: Councilman Congo.

Council Member Congo: Nothing tonight Madame President. Thank you.

President Shabazz: Council Member Oliver.

Council Member Oliver: Nothing tonight Madame President.

President Shabazz: Council Member Harlee.

Council Member Harlee: Nothing tonight Council President.

President Shabazz: Council Member Turner.

Council Member Turner: Nothing tonight Madame President.

President Shabazz: Council Member McCoy.

Council Member McCoy: Nothing tonight Madame President.

President Shabazz: Council Member Williams.

Council Member Williams: No legislation this evening. Thank you.

President Shabazz: Council Member Freel.

Council Member Freel: Two (2) Ordinances for first and second reading.

Council Member Freel presented and called for the first and second reading Ordinance No. 17-003 (Agenda #4322) entitled:

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 2 OF THE CITY CODE IN ORDER TO AUTHORIZE THE CITY TREASURER ACCESS TO THE BUDGET RESERVE ACCOUNT FUNDS AT THE END OF A FISCAL YEAR AND REPLENISHMENT OF THE BUDGET RESERVE ACCOUNT FUNDS IN THE ENSUING FISCAL YEAR FOR FISCAL YEAR 2017

The aforementioned Ordinance was given two separate readings by title only and upon a motion of Council Member Freel, seconded by Council Member Williams, the Ordinance was received, recorded and referred to the Finance & Economic Development Committee. Motion prevailed.

Council Member Freel presented and called for the first and second reading Ordinance No. 17-004 (Agenda #4323) entitled:

AN ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE THE ANNUAL RECONCILIATION OF ACCOUNTS BY TRANSFERRING FUNDS TO VARIOUS OFFICES AND DEPARTMENTS IN THE CITY OF WILMINGTON TO FULFILL OBLIGATIONS FOR THE REMAINDER OF FISCAL YEAR 2016

The aforementioned Ordinance was given two separate readings by title only and upon a motion of Council Member Freel, seconded by Council Member Williams, the Ordinance was received, recorded and referred to the Finance & Economic Development Committee. Motion prevailed.

Council Member Freel: That's all; thank you.

President Shabazz: Council Member Adams.

Council Member Adams: No ma'am.

President Shabazz: Council Member Dixon.

Council Member Dixon: Nothing tonight Madame President.

President Shabazz: Council Member Guy.

Council Member Guy: Yes Madame President, I'd like to make a motion to lift Agenda item 4320, Resolution 17-007 from the table and I have two (2) friendly amendments.

Council Member Williams: Second.

President Shabazz: It's been properly moved and seconded the Resolution be lifted off the table. On the question; you want to present your friendly amendments?

On the question:

Council Member Guy: Yes, Madame President, I have distributed to everybody with their packets a document that indicates an insertion of the letter "s" in the Now, Therefore, Be it Resolved clause and there's a large number 1 where it says headmaster of all other public and private school and there should be an "s" inserted at that point. And, then in the last paragraph where there is a large number 2, it should say headmasters of all other schools period and everything after that is highlighted is to be deleted. Those are the two (2) friendly amendments. The Clerk has a copy and I believe everybody on the floor has a copy.

President Shabazz: I accept a second on – acceptance of the...

Council Member Williams: Second.

President Shabazz: It's been properly moved and seconded that the amendments, the friendly amendments be accepted as presented. On the question, all those in favor, all opposed. On the question; on the Resolution as amended.

Resolution No. 17-007 (Agenda #4320) As Amended\*, as follows:

**WHEREAS**, Council believes that a quality education is essential in producing opportunities for a successful life and improving the quality of life for each citizen; and

**WHEREAS**, Wilmington students in primary and secondary schools should be recognized for their academic achievements, as well as other outstanding achievements associated with a successful matriculation; and

**WHEREAS**, Council would like to recognize all Wilmington students who attend schools in the above-stated education levels and are deemed outstanding in areas such as academic, attendance, sports, and community service, and commend them through awards for their achievements.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WILMINGTON**, that Council requests that the Superintendents of the Christina, Brandywine, Red Clay, Colonial and Vocational school districts and the Principals or Headmasters of all other public and private \*school[s] assist Council in its efforts to recognize outstanding Wilmington students by providing Council with the names and addresses of those students residing in the City of Wilmington who have demonstrated outstanding achievements in the areas set forth in this resolution

**FURTHER RESOLVED**, that a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Superintendent of each of the above named school districts and to the Principals and Headmasters of all other schools. ~~\*located within the referenced school districts.~~

On the question:

Council Member Guy: Yes Madame President, what I tried to do is – it’s been a series of meetings. So, we had a committee meeting a while ago on the 11<sup>th</sup> and out of that meeting some amendments were made to the Now, Therefore, Be it Resolved clause and then as a result of our last Feb. 19<sup>th</sup> meeting, after reviewing the tapes, another amendment was made to the very last paragraph and so, the purpose or the objective of each of those two (2) amendments was to broaden the reach because the objective is to try to capture all of our students. So, if you look at the very last sentence where there is the catchall phrase, *principals and headmasters of all other schools*; so, any type of school that’s not specifically mentioned that’s designed to capture them. If you go to the Now, Therefore, Be it Resolved clause, we don’t have the authority to order any school

district to do anything. What this does is it asks them and it says it specifically, *Council requests*, and there’s the word *assist Council*, so they’re just all being asked to assist us in identifying students. I had the opportunity to actually speak with the author of one of the documents that was presented the last time and shared with them what took place and they wrote a supplemental letter providing some clarification that their intention was not to try to oppose this Resolution and I ‘ma read that into the record and submit it to the Clerk so that it can be filed. It’s from \*Mr. Green and he carbon copied the Superintendent. He was the gentleman whose letter was read during our last meeting.

Good morning Mr. Guy,

Please allow this correspondence to be a point of clarification regarding the letter dated January 19, 2017 submitted to City Council of Wilmington under my name. The purpose of that correspondence was not to state a position of opposition or to convey that Brandywine School District is not in favor of recognizing outstanding students within our district that reside within the City of Wilmington.

As stated in that correspondence, we support and applaud such efforts. “Again we applaud and appreciate the efforts of the proposed Resolution. Former recognition of the richness and positive attributes of the young people within our community is long overdue. If we can be of any assistance as you continue to investigate this matter, feel free to contact us!”

The communication to City Council was merely highlighting that parental consent as it currently stands would be needed in order for us to release names, addresses, etc. of students which you are aware. Unfortunately my schedule will not permit me to attend tonight's meeting however I wanted to follow-up based on our phone conversation regarding concerns that you had relative to language in my initial response.

In closing, Brandywine School District is willing to support efforts to recognize students for their achievement once City Council works through the logistics of Resolution #4320.

***\*Note: The aforementioned letter read into the record by Council Member Guy is from Mr. Dorrell Green, Assistant Superintendent of Brandywine School District.***

Council Member Guy: I guess at this point and time I made the best effort to make sure the language is broad and to clear it's not a dispute. I knew it when I wrote this that the schools respond to us is going to require them to act in accordance with the rules that govern them and so, we make the ask and then we get to work with them in responding. That's all I have Madame Chair.

President Shabazz: Okay. Well, this Resolution is being lifted off the table we a lot of debate on it before but - so I wanted to just try to keep as much – keep as close as possible and I will allow everyone one opportunity to go around to – if they have any other comments to add. Councilman Chukwuocha.

Council Member Chukwuocha: Thank you Madame President. I, I – one I have a letter that I would like read into record and just another supplemental record from another District stating the fact of – I hear my colleague's suggesting that this is only a request but it's not being stated that that request is unlawful. So, I think that's a point and I think that's a point that the letter I would like read into record states.

***Note: The aforementioned letter from Superintendent Mervin B. Daugherty from Red Clay Consolidated School District that was read into the record is included herein as an insert on Page 9.***

*[The remainder of this page intentionally left blank]*





**RED CLAY CONSOLIDATED  
SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**Mervin B. Daugherty, Ed.D.**  
*Superintendent*

**Administrative Offices**  
1502 Spruce Avenue  
Wilmington, Delaware 19805

**Office of the Superintendent**

Office (302) 552-3702  
Fax (302) 992-7830

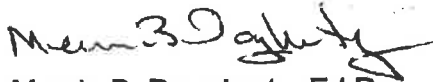
February 1, 2017

To: Wilmington City Council

Re: Legislation

Upon review of the legislation sponsored by Council Member Samuel Guy I must inform you that the Red Clay Consolidated School District will not be able to comply with the resolution due to it being in violation of the guidelines in FERPA. I would also like to confirm that the only charter schools within Red Clay's responsibilities are the Delaware Military Academy and the Charter School of Wilmington.

Respectfully,

  
Mervin B. Daugherty, Ed.D.

Council Member Chukwuocha: Thank you Madame President and that is from the Superintendent of the Red Clay School District. I believe that there – there are two issues. One, dealing with what’s considered intent and not I believe that as – as Assistant Superintendent Dorrell Green was saying, we all and everyone on this floor is supportive of the intent of this Resolution to acknowledge our students. As was mentioned during the committee meeting that we all believe this is a good thing. One, stating from who’s going to recognize them. One, it’s not Council’s duty to recognize them if Council legislates. We have an Administrative body (Executive body) who actually performs duties and services. So, if we were doing this in collaboration with our Parks and Recreation or Youth & Families Division, it would make sense for us to do that. But to say that Council is going to do that, that’s overstepping our legislative duties and then the other thing about intent – the, the, intent – intent is one thing, we all support the intent. The legislation isn’t about intent. Legislation is about legislative change; it’s about system’s change, changes something. This Resolution doesn’t change anything. It’s merely as me saying we want to end gun violence or we end opioid abuse in our city and everyone agrees with that intent. I don’t say how I’m going to do it, I don’t mention how much overtime it’s going to cost or medical workers, I don’t say anything. I just say this is my intent.

We all support the intent but it goes far beyond the intent regardless of the position of the school districts. It’s illegal for them to send that but yet that’s been mentioned; it’s been certified in letters read into record and even the second letter that was read today still states the same thing that it is in opposition to federal law for them to send that information. We know that but yet as a body we’re still being ask to send this forward to the school districts. In the Committee, we said but we’ll send it and we’ll see what they say. Well we have letters from school district superintendents so we know exactly what they would say when they receive it. I think that we really need to, to make that clear distinction between intent and actual legislation. That this is – if we want to move this legislation and as that letter says as we continue to develop this Resolution, it’s not for Council. If we’re going to develop a system through which our Wilmington students are going to be recognized, it should be done in collaboration with our Parks and Recreation Department or Youth and Families Division not through Council. I think that’s the clear distinction and this Resolution doesn’t address that. So, I would pray that my colleagues think about intent and really think about system change and think about what this Resolution actually changes. I think it says to us that to me, if we send something from this body that we know is, is an illegal request of our school districts and of our partner districts and our charter schools, what is that saying about us as a body and us really taking the opportunity to do our due diligence in send legislation and requests to our districts that are appropriate in manner and truly fit to accomplish the goals that we set forward not just on intent but truly creating system change for our students, our families and our community? Thank you Madame President.

President Shabazz: Thank you Mr. Chukwuocha. Any other comments from members of Council? Councilman Congo.

Council Member Congo: Yes, thank you Madame Chair. I'm confused, what is illegal or what are they saying is illegal? What is the District saying is illegal for them to send to us?

President Shabazz: My understanding that we're requesting the names and addresses of children and that information is, is supported – is, confidential under the...

Council Member Chukwuocha: FERPA.

President Shabazz: ...FERPA law.

Council Member Congo: The Resolution asks for names and addresses?

President Shabazz: That's correct; yes. With the names and addresses of those students reside in the City of Wilmington. Yes sir.

Council Member Congo: Okay, thank you.

President Shabazz: Any other members, members of Council?  
Councilman Freel.

Council Member Freel: Yeah, I, I mean, I think it's good that he kind of tried to expand this to other schools and make sure everybody is included but my concern was it really doesn't give any guidance to the schools in what we're looking for. They can define outstanding in different ways but there's no limit on the number of students' names that they would submit to us. I mean, one school could submit hundred and the other school ten. How often? Is this is going to be something we do every month or is it going to be quarterly? How will they be recognized and who is going to be administering the program? I mean there could be a lot of administrative work involved here. Are we asking Council staff to perform these duties? It just – it just to me is just so broad, it doesn't really give us any, any kind of definition or guidelines at all. It's really difficult to follow it.

President Shabazz: Councilman Adams.

Council Member Adams: Yes Madame President, thank you. Madame President, at the last meeting I asked to table this legislation so we'd have an opportunity to get back to committee and address some of the concerns that Council had and also the school districts and everything else. And, I still think that this legislation is void a process. It really – the idea was to go back or at least I thought the idea was to go back and further investigate and work through the logistics and so that we can have a piece of legislation that actually, one, recognize the children and also two, protected the information somehow because at times there are people out there that do real evil things and we have to make sure that we at least protect their civil rights as far as public safety

is concern. I would strongly encourage my fellow Councilmembers to vote against this flawed legislation and maybe a little bit down the road we can have another piece of legislation that goes to Council that addresses the concerns of everyone both here at Council and outside, the school districts and everything else so that we can appropriately recognize the children and thank you.

President Shabazz: Councilwoman Oliver.

Council Member Oliver: Good evening Madame President. As much as I respect my Councilman Guy, my co-worker, I thought – I'm going to piggy back off what Ciro said, I thought he was going to go back and make some other changes and listening to some of my colleagues statements of – from the school districts, I spoke to, I spoke to a pioneer here tonight Ms. Bebe Coker who has been in the school district for – school system for a number of years and also reading this letter from Jea Street today, the trouble that's in school. I worked at Shue, Kirk School and got – and to see the numbers – the low numbers in reading, the low numbers in math, the low numbers in science and he sent out – and social studies, and he sent it out to the Governor, City Council, several people in legislative body, Attorney General, it just seems that we have a lot going on in the school district and to ask them to take on all of this, I'm just gonna – I'm not going to vote for it tonight.

President Shabazz: Councilman Turner.

Council Member Turner: Yeah, thank you Madame President. I'm, I'm reading this Resolution and it also states in the Resolution that we would recognize students for attendance, sports, community service and in our community right now we have kids that are not going to school. Last year they may have missed twenty-five, thirty days in a school year and if we have children that say this year go to school and they might have missed three days, at the same time, they missed twenty-five days. I think that that's something to be recognized towards how people are dropping out so fast. I think in our next committee meeting, we have something coming up that we're trying to send to the General Assembly of changing the age from 16 to 17, if I'm not mistaken, so, we are – we are doing things to try – to push that envelope. Also, I see some of the things that, that despairs our community is that there's a lack of community service, a lack of children taking pride in their community. So, we also states in here that recognize of a community service. I did, I did numerous clean-ups in the last year and some of the kids took pride in waking up at eight, nine o'clock on a Saturday to come help clean-up their community. So, recognition may not be a certificate – recognition may be just given that child a hand shake or going to school and giving them a hand shake. So, if they don't give us their names and addresses but they can tell us that this kid – this child needs to be recognized. So even if we go to school and give that child a hug or stand as a body and say we support this, this child for having perfect attendance for six months over the school year. And, then we have two people, Red Clay and Brandywine stating one thing that it's unlawful and then somebody else saying I support it, when the last Council meeting they weren't support of it. So now, there, you know, now we have battles

between Red Clay and Brandywine when sometimes it's a couple things that school district I, I, I dispute towards they can't even get the attendance together. You know, I mean, towards being out of school at the same time. You know, some – Brandywine is off at this time and Red Clay is off at that time, so here we go with two school districts, one saying no and one saying yes. So, today, just for the reason of recognizing a community service and attendance and different things that our community needs after having a month of our youth going haywire, I will support this just for that and I will vote yes on this.

President Shabazz: Councilman Guy.

Council Member Guy: Yes, the first thing that I need to do because we have one video tape of a committee meeting, we have a second video tape of our last Council meeting and right now we're creating a three video tape of this meeting. So, on three occasions we spent five to ten minutes arguing about whether or not to give positive re-enforcement to kids in Wilmington who a lot of them aren't getting positive re-enforcement because they're in a system that maybe at home or what have you where people aren't patting them on the back and saying a job well done. And, if, what I find interesting is that there continues to be moving reasons. Now, we just had three children that came up here and we just recognized them and they seem to be very happy that we recognized them. So, it meant something to them. So, I find this whole conversation, aspects of it to suggest to me there's something else going on here and I don't know what it is. But, I've never been around no group of adults, I'm a lawyer and a certified teacher all the way up to superintendent and I've never been in a room where folks are trying to sabotage merely recognizing young folks for doing well. So now, let's get the truth out here. I know Mervin, the Superintendent of Red Clay, okay, and I know the Superintendent of Brandywine and when I called Brandywine and told them what happen, they said "that wasn't our intention to try to under mind this." They were just pointing out that they have to get consent. So, all of this mess with a one paragraph letter from Mervin with Red Clay, it's not that it – it's not illegal to ask, they just are going to get consent when they answer. So, we need to stop all this fake making up illegality stuff. If you noticed, the first letter from Brandywine that was read into the record talked about some illegality. Once he recognized that his letter was being used improperly, he wrote a second letter where he's not saying it's an illegal request. If you actually read the document, it asks – it requests them, this is not an ordinance. This is not us passing a law ordering somebody to do something. This is us requesting somebody to assist us in identifying children and they're going to respond lawfully with the consent of the parent and we did this, fifteen years ago and now people want to act like it's something that never happened before. It happens all the time. So, if folks want to vote against it, vote it against it but don't try to mislead colleagues making up stuff to try to get people to vote against it but if you want to vote against it ...

President Shabazz: Ten seconds Mr. Guy.

Council Member Guy: ...you can and I'll just write to the school districts and let them know that this is what I want to do working with them. So, let's – let the games begin. That's all I have Madame President.

President Shabazz: Thank you. I just – I, I really just like to say that I believe the intention – all of us as you stated all the Council Members are feel this is something intention but as a legislative body of this government that we just want to make sure that we're sending out legislation that is proper and it's something that can be accomplished and that's why I believe it was tabled so that we can could get those points put into place so that it would be as effective as it is other than just a statement and I believe that's what – that was presented. So, I will now call the roll.

The aforementioned Resolution, As Amended, was received, adopted as read and directed to be recorded and filed by the following Yea and Nay Roll Call Vote: Yeas, Council Members Congo, Harlee, Turner, McCoy, Williams, Dixon and Guy. Total, seven. Nays, Council Members Chukwuocha, Oliver, Freel and Adams, and Council President Shabazz. Total, five. Absent, Council Member Walsh.

President Shabazz: Declare it adopted. Councilwoman Walsh is absent. We will now go into our Petitions and Communications part of our program.

### **PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS**

Council Members announced civic association meetings/committee meetings and community events/activities and congratulated individuals throughout their districts and beyond. Also, Council Members spoke on the following: 107<sup>th</sup> Session Rules of Council (Res. 17-001) and the contents of the Rules and more specifically the alleged removal of prayer; a request was made to the Mayor's Chief of Staff to provide information on how many days of the past sixty days has Engine 6 been closed due to conditional company closure and what other engines have been conditional company closures during that same time period; all residents were encouraged to frequent and support the businesses in their community; CDC Community Advisory Council recommendations; and including but not limited to a letter was referenced from County Councilman Jea Street regarding the incident that happened at Bayard Middle School.

Comments were stated by Council President that it was not her goal at all to take away the importance of prayer but rather was taking into consideration the diversity of the entire City so that no one was offended and Council President further added that it was her intention to be as inclusive and transparent and informative as she could be by providing the new Council Members with more information than was provided in prior sessions. Council President encouraged the members of Council to take the time to read the information that was provided and added that she looks forward to the Council continuing to move forward. She further stated that Feb. 3<sup>rd</sup> marks the one month anniversary of this 107<sup>th</sup> Session of Wilmington City Council and she acknowledged the Council's efforts and due diligence on behalf of the residents of the City.

Also, Council President mentioned that Council will continue in the strategic planning in what Council's efforts will be for and accomplish with this 107<sup>th</sup> Session and additional information would be provided shortly. In closing, Council President commended the full body of Council for their focus, their trust in each other and the process and their commitment to moving Wilmington forward.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Upon a motion of Council Member Freel and duly seconded, Council adjourned at 7:30 p.m. Motion prevailed.

Attest: Maribel Seijo  
Maribel Seijo, City Clerk