

*The Grand Opera House  
818 Market Street  
Wilmington, Delaware  
January 3, 2017*

## **INAUGURATION/ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING**

The meeting was called to order by Mrs. Maribel Seijo, Clerk of Council at 8:00 p.m.

The invocation was given by Reverend Provey Powell, Jr. of Mt. Joy United Methodist Church.

The National Anthem was sung by Maya Belaro accompanied by Saxophonist Ron Sutton.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

The City Clerk appointed Mr. Robert A. Williams, Mrs. Yolanda McCoy, Ms. Michelle Harlee and Mr. Samuel L. Guy to escort Judge Diane Clarke Streett into the room.

The City Clerk read the Certificate of Election of the President, Hanifa Shabazz.

### **CERTIFICATE OF ELECTION**

State of Delaware Department of Elections - New Castle County Office, be it remembered that at the General Election held on the first Tuesday next after the first Monday in November, in the year Two Thousand and Sixteen, for the City of Wilmington, according to the laws of the State of Delaware, this Department hereby certifies the following to be the true result of the aforesaid election:

Elected President of City Council  
HANIFA SHABAZZ

/s/Anthony J. Albence  
County Director

/s/Howard G. Sholl, Jr.  
Deputy County Director

After reading said Certificate, the Oath of Office was administered to Ms. Hanifa Shabazz by Judge Diane Clarke Streett.

The City Clerk read the Certificate of Election of the City Council:

**CERTIFICATE OF ELECTION**

State of Delaware Department of Elections - New Castle County Office,  
be it remembered that at the General Election held on the first Tuesday next after the first  
Monday in November, in the year Two Thousand and Sixteen, for the City of  
Wilmington, according to the laws of the State of Delaware, this Department hereby  
certifies the following to be the true result of the aforesaid election:

Elected 1<sup>st</sup> District, Nnamdi O. Chukwuocha  
Elected 2<sup>nd</sup> District, Ernest M. Congo, II  
Elected 3<sup>rd</sup> District, Zanthia Oliver  
Elected 4<sup>th</sup> District, Michelle Harlee  
Elected 5<sup>th</sup> District, Va'Shun Turner  
Elected 6<sup>th</sup> District, Yolanda McCoy  
Elected 7<sup>th</sup> District, Robert A. Williams  
Elected 8<sup>th</sup> District, Charles M. Freel  
At-Large, Ciro Adams, Rysheema Dixon, Samuel L. Guy and Loretta

Walsh.

/s/Anthony L. Albence  
County Director

/s/Howard G. Sholl, Jr.  
Deputy County Director

Upon a motion of Mr. Freel, seconded by Mr. Williams, the  
aforementioned certificates were received, recorded and filed, and the thirteen names of  
City Council were placed on the temporary roll. Motion prevailed.

President Shabazz appointed Ms. Walsh, Mr. Turner and Mr. Freel as the  
Credentials Committee.

The City Clerk read the report of the Credentials Committee.

January 3, 2017

The Honorable President and Member  
Of Wilmington City Council

Ladies and Gentlemen:

We, your Credentials Committee, have examined the Credentials of the  
Members-Elect of City Council and find that the several members-elect are fully  
qualified and entitled by law to assume their position as members of City Council.

Hanifa Shabazz	President of City Council
Nnamdi O. Chukwuocha	1 <sup>st</sup> Councilmanic District
Ernest “Trippi” Congo, II	2 <sup>nd</sup> Councilmanic District
Zanthia Oliver	3 <sup>rd</sup> Councilmanic District
Michelle Harlee	4 <sup>th</sup> Councilmanic District
Va’Shun Turner	5 <sup>th</sup> Councilmanic District
Yolanda McCoy	6 <sup>th</sup> Councilmanic District
Robert A. Williams	7 <sup>th</sup> Councilmanic District
Charles M. Freel	8 <sup>th</sup> Councilmanic District
Ciro Adams	At-Large
Rysheema Dixon	At-Large
Samuel L. Guy	At-Large
Loretta Walsh	At-Large

Respectfully submitted,  
/s/Loretta Walsh  
/s/Va’Shun Turner  
/s/Charles M. Freel  
Credentials Committee

Upon a motion of Mr. Freel, seconded by Mr. Williams/Ms. Walsh, the Credentials Committee report was accepted. Motion prevailed.

After reading said Credentials Committee Report, the Oath of Office was administered to the Members of Council by Judge Diane Clarke Streett.

The City Clerk read the Certificate of Election of the City Treasurer, Velda Jones-Potter.

**CERTIFICATE OF ELECTION**

State of Delaware Department of Elections - New Castle County Office, be it remembered that at the General Election held on the first Tuesday next after the first Monday in November, in the year Two Thousand and Sixteen, for the City of Wilmington, according to the laws of the State of Delaware, this Department hereby certifies the following to be the true result of the aforesaid election:

Elected City Treasurer  
Velda Jones-Potter

/s/Anthony J. Albence  
County Director

/s/Howard G. Sholl, Jr.  
Deputy County Director

After reading said Certificate of Election, the Oath of Office was administered to Mrs. Velda Jones-Potter by Judge Diane Clarke Streett.

President Shabazz appointed Councilwoman Oliver, Councilman Chukwuocha, Councilwoman Dixon and Councilman Congo to escort Mayor Michael S. Purzycki into the room.

State of Delaware Department of Elections - New Castle County Office, be it remembered that at the General Election held on the first Tuesday next after the first Monday in November, in the year Two Thousand and Sixteen, for the City of Wilmington, according to the laws of the State of Delaware, this Department hereby certifies the following to be the true result of the aforesaid election:

Elected Mayor  
Michael S. Purzycki

/s/Anthony J. Albence  
County Director

/s/Howard G. Sholl, Jr.  
Deputy County Director

### **LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS**

On behalf of President Shabazz, Councilman Chukwuocha presented Resolution No. 17-001 (Agenda #4312) to adopt Council Rules for 107<sup>th</sup> Session as follows:

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to Section 2-104 of the City Charter, City Council shall determine its own rules and order of business; and

**WHEREAS**, City Council deems it advisable to adopt its permanent rules, the proposed rules attached hereto.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WILMINGTON** that the proposed 2017 Rules attached hereto and made a part hereof, are adopted as the Rules of Wilmington City Council.

Upon a motion of Councilman Chukwuocha, seconded by Councilman Freel, the aforementioned Resolution was received, adopted as read and directed to be recorded and filed by the following Yea and Nay Roll Call Vote: Yeas, Council Members Chukwuocha, Congo, Oliver, Harlee, McCoy, Freel, Adams, Dixon and Walsh, and Council President Shabazz. Total, ten. Nays, Council Members Turner, Williams and Guy. Total, three.

President Shabazz: Declare it adopted.

*Note: A complete copy of the 107<sup>th</sup> Session Council Rules is on file in the City Council's Office.*

On behalf of President Shabazz, Councilman Chukwuocha presented Resolution No. 17-002 (Agenda #4313) to appoint Council staff as follows:

**WHEREAS**, the Council of the City of Wilmington is authorized by the Wilmington Home Rule Charter in Section 2-104 to select its Officers at the organizational Council meeting to be held on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in January next succeeding the election of Council Members; and

**WHEREAS**, City Council is holding its organizational meeting on Tuesday, January 3, 2017 at 8:00 p.m., for the next terms of office of its members; and

**WHEREAS**, Council deems it desirable to retain certain individuals who shall serve at the pleasure of the City Council President.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WILMINGTON** that the following Officers of the City Council be placed on the payroll of the City of Wilmington in the Office of the City Clerk:

- |     |                    |  |
|-----|--------------------|--|
| 1.  | Gary Fullman       | Chief of Staff                           |
| 2.  | Maribel Seijo      | City Clerk                               |
| 3.  | David Karas        | Legislative & Policy Director            |
| 4.  | Antoine Oakley     | Director of Communications               |
| 5.  | Jordan Hines       | Legislative & Policy Analyst             |
| 6.  | Marchelle Basnight | Chief Financial Officer & Policy Advisor |
| 7.  | Traci Owens        | Executive Administrative Assistant       |
| 8.  | Ivan Thomas        | WITN/Station Manager                     |
| 9.  | Yesenia Taveras    | Senior Producer/Director                 |
| 10. | Paul Colsey        | Senior Producer/Director                 |
| 11. | Franchon Beeks     | Producer/Director                        |
| 12. | Lorener Wooten     | Producer/Director                        |
| 13. | Saquan Stimpson    | Producer Editor                          |
| 14. | Paul Kennard       | Production Supervisor                    |
| 15. | Andrea Queen       | Legislative Aide/Deputy City Clerk       |

**FURTHER RESOLVED** that the City Clerk is hereby directed to forward copies of this resolution to the Director of Human Resources, the City Treasurer, and the City Auditor as their authority in the premises.

Upon a motion of Councilman Chukwuocha, seconded by Councilman Freel, the Resolution was received, adopted as read and directed to be recorded and filed by the following Yea and Nay Roll Call Vote: Yeas, Council Members Chukwuocha, Oliver, Harlee, McCoy, Freel, Adams, Dixon and Walsh and Council President Shabazz. Total, nine. Nays, Council Members Congo, Turner, Williams and Guy. Total, four.

President Shabazz: Declare it adopted.

On behalf of President Shabazz, Councilman Chukwuocha presented Resolution No. 17-003 (Agenda #4314) to appoint President Pro Tempore as follows:

**WHEREAS**, the Council of the City of Wilmington is authorized by Section 2-104 of the Wilmington Home Rule Charter to elect from among its members a President Pro Tempore to act in the event of the absence or disability of the President.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WILMINGTON** that Loretta Walsh is hereby elected as President Pro Tempore of the Council of the City of Wilmington.

Upon a motion of Councilman Chukwuocha, seconded by Councilman Freel, the Resolution was received, adopted as read and directed to be recorded and filed by the following Yea and Nay Roll Call Vote: Yeas, Council Members Chukwuocha, Oliver, Harlee, Turner, McCoy, Williams, Freel, Adams, Dixon, Guy and Council President Walsh. Total, eleven. Present, Council Member Walsh. Total, one. Nays, none.

President Shabazz: Declare it adopted.

On behalf of President Shabazz, Councilman Freel presented and called for the first and second reading Ordinance No. 17-001 entitled:

AN ORDINANCE CONSTITUTING AMENDMENT NO. 6 TO THE FISCAL YEAR 2017 OPERATING BUDGET (BEING AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND SUBSTITUTE NO. 1 TO ORDINANCE NO. 16-018, AS AMENDED) BY AMENDING THE POSITION ALLOCATION LISTS FOR THE OFFICES OF THE MAYOR AND CITY TREASURER AND THE DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT, INCLUDING CERTAIN SALARY ADJUSTMENTS, AND BY AMENDING THE EXECUTIVE AND MANAGERIAL SALARY STRUCTURE MATRIX

This Ordinance was given two separate readings by title only and upon a motion of Mr. Freel, seconded by Councilwoman Walsh, the Ordinance was received, recorded, and referred to the Finance and Economic Development Committee. Motion prevailed.

President Shabazz announced the Chairs of the following Standing Committees:

**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT & URBAN PLANNING**

Rysheema Dixon, Chair  
Nnamdi O. Chukwuocha  
Yolanda McCoy, Vice-Chair  
Ernest "Trippi" Congo, II  
Charles M. "Bud" Freel  
Va'Shun "Vash" Turner

**EDUCATION, YOUTH & FAMILIES**

Nnamdi O. Chukwuocha, Chair  
Samuel L. Guy  
Ernest "Trippi" Congo, II  
Va'Shun "Vash" Turner  
Charles M. "Bud" Freel  
Michelle Harlee, Vice-Chair

**FINANCE & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

Charles M. "Bud" Freel, Chair  
Robert A. Williams  
Zanthia Oliver  
Nnamdi O. Chukwuocha, Vice-Chair  
Loretta Walsh  
Ciro Adams

**HEALTH, AGING & DISABILITIES**

Ernest "Trippi" Congo II, Chair  
Va'Shun "Vash" Turner  
Samuel L. Guy  
Rysheema Dixon  
Robert A. Williams  
Ciro Adams

**PUBLIC SAFETY**

Loretta Walsh, Chair  
Robert A. Williams, Vice-Chair  
Michelle Harlee  
Yolanda McCoy  
Charles M. “Bud” Freel  
Ciro Adams

**PUBLIC WORKS & TRANSPORTATION**

Va’Shun “Vash” Turner, Chair  
Samuel L. Guy  
Zanthia Oliver  
Loretta Walsh  
Michelle Harlee  
Ciro Adams, Vice-Chair

**WILMINGTON CABLE, VIDEO AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION**

Hanifa Shabazz, Chair  
Zanthia Oliver  
Yolanda McCoy  
Rysheema Dixon

At this time, President Shabazz, President Pro Tempore Walsh and all members of City Council as well as City Treasurer Velda Jones-Potter made statements of appreciation. They recognized their family members and thanked everyone for their support.

President Shabazz announced that Mayor Michael S. Purzycki would now present his inaugural address.

**2017 INAUGURAL ADDRESS**

Madam President, members of council, Judge Street, Elected officials, honored guests, ladies and gentlemen.

I want to sincerely congratulate all members of council for your successful campaigns and for your dedication to our city. I look forward to working together in pursuit of the same goal of improving Wilmington. We don’t always have to agree on how we govern as long as we never forget why.

I want to recognize our former mayor Dennis Williams for his dedication to our city and his efforts on its behalf. Many good things occurred over the past four years and I intend to build on them.



I want to first recognize my family. Anyone who knows anything about politics will tell you that without a supportive spouse this job would be impossibility. My family is the foundation on which I have built my life. And no one has been a greater part of that foundation and a greater supporter than my wife Bette. Thank you Bette. Adriane is here. Mick is in London and for Gage it is a school night.

I am deeply honored to have been entrusted by the citizens of Wilmington with the responsibility of leading our city- especially during these challenging times.

Tonight I want to share my administration's approach to governing. I want to describe the lens through which I view our city's challenges and the way I propose to deal with them. First, I would like to ask my senior staff and directors to stand and be recognized.

In spite of our difficulties, we should never lose sight of the fact that we live in a wonderful city. We have beautiful and diverse neighborhoods, outstanding parks and public places and magnificent arts organizations. We are the strategic center of Delaware, we are home to 50% of the nation's publicly traded corporations, a national center for the credit card industry; we are home to a vibrant port and the eleventh busiest train station in the country; Fifty thousand people work here each day. The billion dollar Riverfront story continues to unfold and the resurgent downtown is showing promise as never before. These are advantages most cities can only wish for.

But like many cities, we have problems. Many of our neighborhoods are struggling. We have failed to control senseless violence. Too many of our children are being raised in poverty, and joblessness and incarceration in our poorest neighborhoods has been normalized. In addition to the human toll, these deficits have hurt our reputation nationally and have impeded economic growth.

We have structural limitations that have historically constrained us. We must ask the General Assembly to approve changes to our residency laws and again to raise any tax but the property tax which is fast becoming uncompetitive. We have no control over the schools that educate our children and we have no power of annexation. Wilmington needs a long-term funding formula that is sustainable without our having to go to Dover every other year begging for help. This is beneath the dignity of a proud and independent city.

We have allowed Wilmington to be defined by the worst of us and not by the best of who we are. We have performed not to our potential but to our perceived limits, forgetting that each time we acquiesce to these limits our ability to grow and improve is further limited.

We pay too many of our employees less than the market demands. The consequences are poor morale, police officers who leave at the first opportunity, difficulty in attracting high quality management personnel, and a workforce that spends too much time thinking of how to get even with the system rather than being motivated by a shared vision of success.

But this is not who we have to be. We can set ambitious goals that will inspire us. We can imagine the city as we want it to be and not as it is. We can envision a beautiful, a well maintained and safe city, committed to the rebuilding of neighborhoods, employment for the jobless, an energetic downtown populated by young entrepreneurs, all driven by an economic development machine that is surely part of our DNA.

We will build our budgets to that vision. Our objective is growth- more jobs, more residents and more construction.

It has been said that the greatest danger is not in aiming too high and missing the mark but in aiming too low and hitting it. Rest assured we will never aim too low.

In order to reduce joblessness among our residents I have asked special assistant Lossie Freeman to develop an employment infrastructure for the recruitment, training and placement of our unemployed citizens. This is among our administration's highest priorities.

To ensure that we operate at the highest level of efficiency in our government I have asked David Curtis to head up the office of Best Practices and Innovation. David's first task will be the implementation of a 311 information system- called Wilstat- insuring a government that is transparent and responsive to its citizens.

In some ways we will go back to basics. We are going to clean our city of the trash that infects our neighborhoods and lines the streets that are our city's gateways.

Everyone is concerned with crime so let me say something about public safety. I remain unalterably committed to community policing strategies and deploying as many officers onto our streets and our downtown as possible.

We have some of the finest police officers in the state of Delaware and they do the toughest kind of police work, but they cannot reduce the underlying causes of crime all by themselves. We must help our officers reduce crime by stabilizing neighborhoods, by strengthening families and by keeping our kids in school. We need healthy community centers for children and programs that keep them engaged. I will encourage our state officials to fully engage with our education community to allow for a new educational vision for our state with an adequately funded weighted system to help our children get the education they need and deserve. This vision should include a Wilmington High School.

As has been reported I have employed a national search firm to help us review all candidates for police chief- both internal and external. We owe it to ourselves to get professionals to evaluate department leadership and recommend best practices and innovations in policing. During this time, Police Chief Cummings has agreed to stay on and assist "in any way" as he describes it "that helps my city". That helps "my city" he

said. If citizens are looking for an example of what is good about Wilmington they need look no further than the example set by the Chief. Thank you Bobby.

One of our most important tasks will be to improve morale among our employees, identified in our transition reports as a widespread problem. Beyond simply showing people the respect that everyone deserves we must embrace the idea that we are all in this together- each and every city department. If we want to have pride in our work and in each other then we have to think of ourselves as family. We will learn to succeed or fail not as individuals but together. If one of us fails, then we all fail. But when one of us behaves heroically as in the case of our courageous and fallen firefighters, then we should all be able to bask in the reflected glory of that heroism. Why? Because we are all part of a family with pride in one another, each one of us an essential part of the whole.

If there is one theme that will transcend every operation in our city, every project, every daily duty of every employee it would be the pursuit of excellence in everything we do. My belief is that if we cannot do something well then we will not do it at all. If we cannot maintain a park well then we will not pretend to do so. All of our buildings, our firehouses and Hicks Anderson Community Center for example, will be maintained to high standards. Currently they are not- and yes that means the city county building as well. I intend to remind all of our employees as they enter our building each day, that Excellence Lives Here.

But the pursuit of excellence does not end with City Hall. We must all rededicate ourselves, each and every citizen to answer the call for a new birth of optimism in the city of Wilmington. For Wilmington to prosper, this culture must be shared by all our citizens. From Southbridge to Northeast, from Cool Spring to the Triangle, from the Highlands to St. E's and back to East side, we must remember that we are all in this together- black, white, Hispanic, gay and straight, rich and poor- all are included in the dreams, hopes and aspirations of the city in which we live.

Let us then aspire to excellence in the way we maintain our neighborhoods, in the way we work with our police officers, in the way we care for our children and support one another. Our success will depend on what Teddy Roosevelt long ago called the "Good Citizen" being involved in the future vision of our city. Our mission to achieve a resurgent Wilmington- proud, confident and prosperous- will not be easy -but I am confident with motivated and proud city employees, our business leaders, the clergy, dedicated elected officials and the commitment of the indispensable "good citizen" that our mission will be accomplished.

For my part I can only promise you my very best for the next four years. Thank you

Council President Hanifa Shabazz presented gift to Judge Diane Clarke  
Streett.

Benediction was given by Reverend Provey Powell, Jr..

Upon a motion of Councilwoman Walsh, seconded by Councilman Freel,  
Council adjourned at approximately 10:12 p.m. Motion prevailed.

Attest:   
*Maribel Seijo, City Clerk*