

RES 16-064

Wilmington, Delaware
August 25, 2016

#4253

Sponsor:

Council
Member
D. Brown

Co-Sponsors:

Council
Members
Dorsey Walker
Shabazz

WHEREAS, approximately 2.2 million Americans are behind bars – a figure that accounts for roughly a quarter of the world’s inmate population; and

WHEREAS, each year, more than 600,000 inmates are released from federal and state prisons and 11.4 million more cycle through local jails; and

WHEREAS, in Wilmington, some 1,200 individuals have historically been released from carceral institutions each year; and

WHEREAS, the some 70 million Americans who have a criminal record are often disqualified from various employment opportunities, thereby preventing them from returning to society as full participants – despite having paid their debt to society; and

WHEREAS, the White House has launched the Fair Chance Business Pledge, an effort to encourage private entities throughout the country to eliminate barriers to employment and opportunity to those with a criminal record; and

WHEREAS, following the encouragement of City Council, the Delaware State Chamber of Commerce has expressed its willingness to promote this initiative among its members, including those in the City of Wilmington and beyond.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WILMINGTON, that the Council supports the efforts of the White House in establishing and promoting the Fair Chance Business Pledge, and respectfully encourages businesses that are located in, and serve, the City of Wilmington to consider joining in this important national initiative.

Approved as to form this 24th
day of August, 2016.

Danya Phatou
Assistant City Solicitor

Passed by City Council,
August 25, 2016

Attest: Maribel Seijo
City Clerk