

**AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 2 OF THE CITY CODE REGARDING
THE ESTABLISHMENT OF COUNCIL ORGANIZATIONAL FUND**

#4273

Sponsor:

**Council
Member
Freel**

WHEREAS, attrition, turnover and leadership changes in elected public office occur in Wilmington on a regular and scheduled basis; and

WHEREAS, it is important that the transition from one session of Wilmington City Council to the next session of City Council take place in a seamless manner that promotes uninterrupted and effective representation of the electorate; and

WHEREAS, even though funds have been previously been set aside to enable a City Council President-elect to support various organizational activities for the incoming session of City Council, this practice has not been codified; and

WHEREAS, such activities include the use of a venue and other logistical needs related to the Inauguration event of the Council President and Council Members which also serves as the first meeting of the new Council on the first Tuesday following the first Monday in January, as well as pre-Inaugural orientation and planning meetings to provide information to new Council members about their duties and responsibilities, and other activities as determined by the Council President-elect; and

WHEREAS, the City Council seeks to establish in the City Code an organizational fund for the City Council President-elect to ensure that appropriate resources are allocated for an effective organization of Council and the transition to a new session of Council.

THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WILMINGTON HEREBY ORDAINS:

SECTION 1. Chapter 2 of the City Code is hereby amended by adding Section 2-357.1, and by adding the underlined language as follows:

Section 2-357.1. Council President-elect Organizational Fund.

- (a) Establishment of Council President-elect organizational fund. There is hereby established in the city's general operating budget a fund to be known and designated as the Council President-elect Organizational Fund. All moneys in the Council President-elect Organizational Fund shall be appropriated and dedicated for the

purposes set forth in this section in the annual operating budget for the fiscal year during which an election for the office of Council president is to occur.

- (b) Certification of election of Council President. As soon as possible after every general election at which a Council President has been elected, the city clerk shall certify to the budget director, finance director, city treasurer, and the auditor the fact and results of such election as certified by the board of elections.
- (c) Amenities to be furnished to Council President-elect. The budget director, in cooperation with the Council President shall, upon request of the Council President-elect, furnish the following services and facilities to the Council President-elect from moneys set aside in the Council President-elect organizational fund:
 - (1) Suitable office space, furniture, fixtures and equipment.
 - (2) Payment of travel expenses for speakers, trainers related to the education, training or instruction for Council Members.
 - (3) Payment of incidental office expenses, including postage, communications and supplies.
 - (4) Payment for the logistics of the Inauguration event and first Council meeting.
 - (5) Other expenditures as may occur related to the organization of Council and the education of Council Members related to their duties and responsibilities.
- (d) Time during which organizational funding is available to Council President-elect. The moneys authorized for use of the Council President-elect as provided in this section shall be available from the date of certification as provided in subsection (b) of this section until the Council President-elect officially assumes the office of Council president.
- (e) Appropriation. At the beginning of a fiscal year during which City Council elections are held, Council shall appropriate funds equaling the amount of funding that was appropriated for the previous council organizational period, plus an additional 10% increase. That entire sum shall be placed in the Council Organizational Fund so that it is available to the Council President-elect after the election certification for purposes as stated in this Ordinance.

SECTION 2. This Ordinance shall become effective immediately upon its date of

passage by the City Council and approval by the Mayor.

First Reading.....October 6, 2016
Second Reading.....October 6, 2016
Third Reading.....

Passed by City Council,

President of City Council

ATTEST: _____
City Clerk

Approved as to form this _____
day of October, 2016.

Assistant City Solicitor

Approved this _____ day of _____, 2016

Mayor

SYNOPSIS: This Ordinance amends Chapter 2 of the Wilmington City Code by adding a new section – Sec. 2-357.1 – to establish an organizational fund to be used by the City Council President-elect for planning, orientation and other logistical needs related to a new session of City Council being seated. This amendment codifies the past practice of allocating organizational funds for an incoming Council president-elect. This amendment is intended to ensure that the transition from one session of City Council to a new session of Council occurs effectively and promotes uninterrupted and effective representation of the electorate.