

RES 16-094

Wilmington, Delaware
December 8, 2016

#4307

WHEREAS, Wilmington City Council (“Council”) enacted Code Section 2-3 establishing the procedure for naming City of Wilmington (“City”) streets, parks,

Sponsors:

playgrounds, plazas, buildings, facilities, statues, monuments, and other lands reserved for public use to commemorate a person of significance to the City; and

**Council
President
Gregory**

WHEREAS, on September 24, 2016, the Wilmington Fire Department’s bravest - Captain Christopher Leach, Lieutenant Jerry Fickes, and Senior Firefighter Ardythe Hope - answered the call of duty, setting aside all concerns for their own safety and rushed into a blazing house fire in an attempt to save the lives of others they believed to be trapped by the fire; and

**Council
Member
Williams
Dorsey Walker**

Co-Sponsors:

**Council
Members
Chukwuocha
Congo
D. Brown
Shabazz
Prado
Freel
M. Brown
Cabrera
Walsh
Wright**

WHEREAS, Captain Leach and Lieutenant Fickes were killed in the line of duty on September 24, 2016, and Senior Firefighter Hope, after courageously fighting for her life, ultimately succumbed to her injuries on December 1, 2016; and

WHEREAS, this was the deadliest fire in the Wilmington Fire Department’s history, and Council deems it its duty to honor and commemorate these three fallen heroes, Captain Christopher Leach, Lieutenant Jerry Fickes, and Senior Firefighter Ardythe Hope, who gave their lives for the City they loved; and

WHEREAS, there is nothing we can do to bring these Angels back to us and there is little we can do to fully honor their lives; furthermore, although any gesture we make will pale in comparison to their heroic acts, it is incumbent upon the City to honor their memories by naming their “home” fire stations after each of these heroes; and

WHEREAS, Wilmington Fire Stations # 4, # 5 and # 6 shall hereafter be named in honor of our heroes who died in the line of duty, valiantly serving their beloved City till the end.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WILMINGTON, that Fire Station # 4 is hereby named in honor of Lieutenant Jerry Fickes, and shall hereafter be known as “The Lieutenant Jerry Fickes Memorial Station,” and such name shall be prominently placed on the front of Fire Station # 4 and shall remain in place so long as the City owns and operates said building.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WILMINGTON, that Fire Station # 5 is hereby named in honor of Senior Firefighter Ardythe Hope, and shall hereafter be known as “The Senior Firefighter Ardythe Hope Memorial Station,” and such name¹ shall be prominently placed on the front of Fire Station # 5 and shall remain in place so long as the City owns and operates said building.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WILMINGTON, that Fire Station # 6 is hereby named in honor of Captain Christopher Leach, and shall hereafter be known as “The Captain Christopher Leach Memorial Station,” and such name shall be prominently placed on the front of Fire Station # 6 and

¹ Fire Station #5 shall be named after Firefighter Hope, incorporating into the name thereof the highest rank she attained.

shall remain in place so long as the City owns and operates said building.

Passed by Council:

December 8, 2016

ATTEST: Maribel Sijsa
City Clerk

Approved as to form this 8th
day of December, 2016.

Michael P. Migliore
City Solicitor

SYNOPSIS

This Resolution seeks to commemorate the lives of Lieutenant Jerry Fickes, Senior Firefighter Ardythe Hope, and Captain Christopher Leach, each one of them a hero, by dedicating Fire Houses # 4, # 5 and # 6 in honor of Lieutenant Fickes, Senior Firefighter Hope, and Captain Leach, respectively.