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City Council**

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Contact: Antoine L. Oakley
Director of Communications

302.519.4717

aloakley@wilmingtonde.gov

COUNCIL TO REVIEW GRANT RECCOMENDATIONS UNDER NEW PROTOCOLS

Grant Funding Applications Greater than \$5,000 to be Reviewed by Finance Committee

Wilmington, Del (Monday, October 30, 2017) – President Hanifa Shabazz today announced that the first community grant fund recommendations, to be considered under Council’s new approval process, will be reviewed at tonight’s Wilmington City Council Finance & Economic Development Committee meeting. As part of the new process adopted by Council in September, all grant recommendations for \$5,000 and higher must be reviewed by the Finance & Economic Development Committee and approved by Council.

“We committed to identifying opportunities for greater accountability and transparency throughout the grant application, allocation and reporting processes and we continue to honor that commitment by not only implementing additional process enhancements, but, also by setting the tone by being the first City entity to go through the new approval process,” said President Shabazz.

Tonight’s robust agenda includes four Resolutions to approve funding in support of local non-profit organizations. Consistent with the new approval process, grants were reviewed by a review panel and submitted to President Shabazz for consideration and final approval. Last week President Shabazz presented Council with her final recommendations to provide ample time for review and consideration.

The following four Resolutions will be presented tonight for discussion:

- **Student Disabilities Advocate, Inc.**: \$35,000 to supplement and expand resources for special needs students, homeless students, and bullied victims in public education, as well as providing education to the community related to student and parent rights.
- **Culture Restoration Project (Behind Those Bars)**: \$7,500 to support Beyond Those Bars, a violence prevention education program which uses hip-hop as a medium to teach youth the skills necessary to reduce or altogether eliminate involvement in risky behavior such as violent crime and delinquency.
- **Neighborhood House, Inc.**: \$15,000 to develop new programming and expand existing programs for engaging youth in positive activities to increase their chances for staying in school, making healthier life choices, and choosing alternatives to crime, violence, drugs, and teen pregnancy.

- **Downtown Visions (Rodney Square Conservancy)**: \$10,000 to support improvements to Rodney Square to transform the public space into a beautiful, interactive, and fun locale that all members of the community will want to visit. This is a public private partnership between the City and neighbors surrounding Rodney Square, and carries the promise of revitalizing a historic and iconic Wilmington location.

“These recommendations are based solely on the merits of the organizations and the critical services they provide or the unmet need(s) being addressed in communities across our City,” said President Shabazz. Additionally, these initiatives closely align with the priorities of the City Council Strategic Planning Process, specifically in their focus on the recommendations of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention report, youth, the community and the City’s economic development initiatives.”

After the Resolutions are reviewed and discussed by the Finance & Economic Development Committee, they will be considered by the full body of Wilmington City Council at the November 2nd meeting.

Tonight’s Finance and Economic Development Committee meeting is scheduled for 5pm on the 1st floor of the City/County Building in the Council Committee Room.

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