

RES 18-016

Wilmington, Delaware
February 15, 2018
March 1, 2018

#4482

Sponsors:

Council
President
Shabazz

Council
Members
Walsh
Chukwuocha

WHEREAS, on December 10, 1948, the United Nations issued a Universal Declaration of Human Rights that proclaimed a set of fundamental human rights to be universally protected by all peoples and nations; and

WHEREAS, to commemorate the signing of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the United Nations passed a Resolution proclaiming the year commencing on December 10, 2008 as the international Year of Human Rights Learning; and

WHEREAS, the Year of Human Rights Learning inspired a movement known as the “Human Rights City” project, which aims to develop “Human Rights Cities” throughout the world to prevent conflict; promote racial justice, human security, and sustainable development; and inspire civic engagement at the local, national, and global level; and

WHEREAS, a Human Rights City is one in which residents and local authorities use the human rights framework provided by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights to influence meaningful and positive economic and social change; and

WHEREAS, spreading awareness of human rights has been an important component of the Human Rights Cities movement, and programs intended to educate citizens about human rights on the local, national and global levels have been implemented in other Human Rights Cities in the United States, including Washington, D.C., Pittsburgh and Boston; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to sections 1-103 and 1-104 of the City Charter, the Wilmington Civil Rights Commission was established in 1992 to address issues of discriminatory treatment resulting from the delivery or provision of city government services or the implementation or effect of city policies; and

WHEREAS, the Wilmington Civil Rights Commission is currently inactive but could be reinstated to help the City protect the full range of universal human rights as enumerated in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and develop a curriculum for educating Wilmington citizens about human rights on a local, national and global level.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WILMINGTON, that the Wilmington City Council does hereby affirm its commitment to human rights by declaring Wilmington a “Human Rights City.”

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Wilmington City Council will work with the Mayor to ensure the reinstatement of the Civil Rights Commission, the duties of which can be expanded to include helping the City protect the full range of universal human rights as enumerated in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and developing a curriculum for educating Wilmington citizens about human rights on a local, national and global level.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Wilmington City Council will begin working to revise the City Code to reflect the full range of universal human rights as enumerated in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Passed by City Council,
March 1, 2018

Attest: Maribel Seijo
City Clerk

SYNOPSIS: This Resolution affirms City Council’s commitment to human rights by declaring Wilmington a “Human Rights City.” It further declares its intention to develop a curriculum for education of Wilmington citizens about human rights on a local, national and global level and revise the City Code to reflect the full range of universal human rights as enumerated in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.