

**AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 2 OF THE CITY CODE REGARDING OFFICIAL NAMES OF STREETS, PARKS, PLAYGROUNDS, PLAZAS, BUILDINGS, FACILITIES, STATUES AND MONUMENTS, OTHER LANDS RESERVED FOR PUBLIC USE**

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**#4517**

**Sponsor:**

**Council  
Member  
Chukwuocha**

**WHEREAS**, the City of Wilmington operates a host of facilities for the public benefit, including parks, playgrounds, plazas, buildings, statues and monuments; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to Section 2-3 of the City Code, some of these facilities have been named in honor of individuals who have played a prominent role in Wilmington’s history and in its various neighborhoods; and

**WHEREAS**, there is a plethora of individuals who could be considered for such a permanent recognition in Wilmington’s landscape, and City Council endeavors to further formalize the process of naming such facilities after particular individuals; and

**WHEREAS**, Council intends to follow the example of other cities in setting forth general criteria for such recognition and to mirror some of the criteria already in place for the naming of City streets; and

**WHEREAS**, it is Council’s hope that these measures will serve to better aid leaders in identifying the appropriate individuals to honor through this process, while also maintaining the prestige of such a recognition.

**NOW, THEREFORE, THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WILMINGTON  
HEREBY ORDAINS:**

**SECTION 1.** Chapter 2 of the City Code is hereby amended by amending Section 2-3 thereof by deleting the stricken language and adding the underlined language as follows:

**Section 2-3. – Official names of streets, parks, playgrounds, plazas, buildings, facilities, statues and monuments, other lands reserved for public use.**

.....

(d) *Facilities*. The naming or renaming of any structure, building, monument, ballfield, recreation center or other facility owned by the city, whether within a park or other facility subject to subsection (b) of this section or located elsewhere, is hereby authorized to be done by resolution approved by a majority of all members of the council, ~~provided that not less than seven days prior to the council meeting at which such resolution will be presented, the principal sponsor of such resolution has mailed or delivered, or has caused to be mailed or delivered, to all other members of council, information and documentation supporting or explaining the naming or renaming to be proposed in such resolution pursuant to the provisions of this subsection.~~ The following process shall be followed for any naming or renaming under this subsection:

1. The principal sponsor of such resolution shall prepare, or cause to be prepared, a written justification attesting to the proposed naming or renaming, which shall be mailed or delivered to all other members of Council at least seven days prior to the Council meeting at which such resolution will be presented.
2. The following conditions shall generally be met:
  - a. If the proposed naming or renaming recognizes an individual:
    - i. The individual shall have achieved prominence in the Wilmington community;
    - ii. The individual shall have made a demonstrable and meaningful impact in the city;
    - iii. The individual is retired or is deceased; and
    - iv. An individual who has served in political office must have been retired for at least five years before a proposed naming or renaming in his or her honor.
  - b. The duplication or repeat use of names on more than one site, regardless of its nature, in the city should be avoided.
3. In the event any of the conditions enumerated in (d)(2) of this Section are not met, a resolution authorizing such proposed naming or renaming shall require approval by a three-quarters (3/4) vote of Council.
4. The director of the department which has authority, oversight or responsibility over the structure, building, monument, ballfield, recreation center or other facility to which the proposed naming or renaming applies, shall furnish a written opinion stating the position of that department regarding the proposed naming or renaming.

The written opinion shall be furnished to all members of Council pursuant to the provisions of (d)(1) of this Section.

**SECTION 2.** This Ordinance shall become effective immediately upon its date of passage by the City Council and approval by the Mayor.

First Reading.....May 3, 2018  
Second Reading.... May 3, 2018  
Third Reading.....

Passed by City Council,

\_\_\_\_\_  
President of City Council

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk

Approved this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2018

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor

**SYNOPSIS:** This Ordinance further formalizes and clarifies the process by which City Council can name or rename facilities by setting forth general criteria for such recognition.

**FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT:** This Ordinance has no anticipated fiscal impact.

**POLICY STATEMENT:** This Ordinance is intended to further formalize the general criteria that should be applied to the process of naming or renaming a City facility in honor of an outstanding Wilmingtonian. This Ordinance was influenced by researching policies in place in other cities.