

*Wilmington, Delaware
Louis L. Redding
City/County Building
January 15, 2015*

Council met in regular session on the above date at 6:30 p.m., President Theopalis K. Gregory, Sr. presiding.

Invocation was given by Joe Garcia.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by City Council.

ROLL CALL

The following members responded to the Call of the Roll: Council Members Chukwuocha, Congo, Darius Brown, Shabazz, Prado, Dorsey Walker, Williams, Freel**, Michael Brown, Cabrera*, Walsh and Wright*, and Council President Gregory. Total, thirteen.

MINUTES

After reading a portion of the minutes of January 8, 2015, upon a motion of Ms. Walsh, seconded by Mr. Prado, it was moved they be accepted as written. Motion prevailed.

***Note:** At this time, Ms. Cabrera and Mr. Wright were marked present.

REPORT OF COMMITTEES

The City Clerk read the following committee report:

<u>Education, Youth & Families Committee Member</u>	<u>Present</u>	<u>Absent with Leave</u>	<u>Absent w/out Leave</u>
Nnamdi O. Chukwuocha	X		
Michael A. Brown Sr.		X	
Maria D. Cabrera	X		
Ernest "Trippi" Congo, II	X		
Hanifa G.N. Shabazz	X		
Sherry Dorsey Walker	X		

President and Members of Council of
The City of Wilmington

January 14, 2015

Ladies and Gentlemen:

We, your Education, Youth & Families Committee, met on the above date at 5:00 p.m., Councilman Nnamdi O. Chukwuocha presiding. The following items were discussed:

- Overview of the tutoring program at Hicks Anderson Community Center by Abdullah Muhammad
- Discuss a Resolution for the Department of Parks & Recreation to accept two DNREC grants for playground enhancements
- Update on Park Capital Improvements by Stan Kozicki
- Freire School presentation by Bill Porter
- Discuss a Resolution to urge the Department of Education to institute a moratorium on new charter school applications
- Discuss a Resolution to encourage Governor Markell to pardon Delaware Abolitionist

Respectfully submitted, Members of
Education, Youth & Families Committee
/s/Nnamdi O. Chukwuocha, Chair
/s/Maria D. Cabrera
/s/Ernest Congo, II
/s/Hanifa Shabazz
/s/Sherry Dorsey Walker

Upon a motion of Mr. Chukwuocha, seconded by Ms. Walsh, the aforementioned Report was received, recorded and filed. Motion prevailed.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The following Treasurer's Report dated January 15, 2015 was read into the record by the City Clerk, and upon a motion of Ms. Walsh, seconded by Mr. Prado and Mr. Williams, the Report was received, recorded and filed. Motion prevailed.

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TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF WILMINGTON JANUARY 15, 2015

102	Community Development Block Grant	M & T Bank	\$ 1.00
104	Old Non-Uniform Pension Account	M & T Bank	\$ 1,963.81
105	Police Pension Account	M & T Bank	\$ 1,197.23
106	Fire Pension Account	M & T Bank	\$ 1,230.97
107	Evidence/Found Currency Account	M & T Bank	\$ 35,229.84
108	Rent Withholding Escrow	M & T Bank	\$ 4,137.97
110	Capital Projects Account	M & T Bank	\$ 1.00
113	Non-Uniform Pension	M & T Bank	\$ 1,111.82
114	Central Deposit	M & T Bank	\$ 8,261.57
117	Cement Workers	Wilmington Savings Fund	\$ 33,420.43
118	Worker's Comp. 3 rd Party Account	M & T Bank	\$ 13,003.23
124	Non-Uniform Pension Act of 1990	M & T Bank	\$ 15,451.11
130	Payroll	M & T Bank	\$ 84,432.96
131	Pension Payroll Account	M & T Bank	\$ 24,340.22
139	Pension Healthcare Account	M & T Bank	\$ <u>1,836.10</u>
	Total Cash on Hand		\$ 225,619.26

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FUND CODE	FUND	INSTITUTION	INVEST. TYPE	MATURITY DATE	INTEREST RATE	INTEREST RECEIVABLE	INVESTMENT AMOUNT
116	General	M&T Bank	RP	01/15/15	0.01%	\$ 1.83	\$ 6,656,135.00
116	General	WSFS	CD	01/23/15	0.30%	\$ 2,071.23	\$ 2,000,000.00
124	Non-Uniform 1990	WSFS	CD	01/29/15	0.30%	\$ 1,403.91	\$ 5,510,000.00
116	General	TD	CD	01/30/15	0.25%	\$ 1,181.51	\$ 1,500,000.00
116	General	WSFS	CD	02/06/15	0.30%	\$ 1,841.10	\$ 2,000,000.00
116	General	TD	CD	02/20/15	0.25%	\$ 3,835.62	\$ 5,000,000.00
116	General ¹	TD	CD	03/02/15	0.25%	\$ 10,482.23	\$ 15,003,965.00
116	General	TD	CD	03/06/15	0.25%	\$ 1,260.28	\$ 2,000,000.00
110	Capital	WSFS	CD	03/16/15	0.30%	\$ 23,134.84	\$ 24,476,000.00
116	General	TD	CD	03/20/15	0.25%	\$ 1,342.47	\$ 2,000,000.00
116	General	TD	CD	03/26/15	0.25%	\$ 719.18	\$ 1,500,000.00
116	General	WSFS	CD	03/31/15	0.30%	\$ 2,136.99	\$ 2,500,000.00
116	General	TD	CD	04/01/15	0.25%	\$ 1,654.11	\$ 2,300,000.00
110	Capital ²	TD	CD	04/30/15	0.25%	\$ 1,107.68	\$ 1,540,195.00
514	Risk Management	WSFS	CD	07/10/15	0.35%	\$ 14,938.32	\$ 4,279,819.74
515	Worker's Comp.	WSFS	CD	07/10/15	0.35%	\$ 14,938.32	\$ 4,279,819.74
104	Escrow Pension	Affinity Wealth					\$ 1,482,654.00
104	Escrow Pension	Vanguard					\$ 36,545,710.00
104	Escrow Pension	Black Rock					\$ 27,215,798.00
104	Escrow Pension	Edgar Lomax					\$ 22,568,821.00
104	Escrow Pension	Wilmington Trust					\$ 46,677,577.00
104	Escrow Pension	Manning & Napier					\$ 20,670,022.00
104	Escrow Pension	Earnest Partners					\$ 17,831,187.00
104	Escrow Pension	GMO					\$ 11,770,224.00
104	Escrow Pension	MFS Management					\$ 20,958,409.00
139	Medical Escrow	Black Rock-OPEB					\$ 13,046,609.00
116	Deferred Comp.	MassMutual					\$ 38,711,963.00
	Total Investments						\$ 340,024,908.48
	Total Cash on Hand						\$ 225,619.26
	Grand Total						\$ 340,250,527.74

¹ Budget Reserve

² SEU

/s/Henry W. Supinski
City Treasurer

NON-LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS

Upon a motion of Ms. Walsh, seconded by Mr. Williams, the following non-legislative resolutions were accepted into the record and motion prevailed:

M. Brown	Sympathy John L. Wright
M. Brown	Sympathy Bertram Furrowh
Cabrera	Recognize Dr. Nelson R. Santos
Cabrera	Welcome Women's Business Center
Freel	Farewell Joan Fultz
Gregory	Retirement Karl Hines
Gregory	Sympathy Maxine Jacqueline Anderson
Shabazz	Sympathy Ardella B. Faulkner

On behalf of President Gregory, Ms. Walsh presided over the remainder of the meeting after Mr. Karl Hines was recognized.

****Note:** At this time, Mr. Freel was marked present.

LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS

President Pro Temp Walsh: Council Member Chukwuocha.

Mr. Chukwuocha: Yes, I have a Resolution to present.

Mr. Chukwuocha presented Resolution No. 15-001 (Agenda #4010) as follows:

WHEREAS, Section 2-363 of the City Code requires all City-sponsored grant applications and proposals to be approved by resolution of Council; and

WHEREAS, the City, through its Department of Parks and Recreation (the "Department"), was awarded a grant in 2009 from the Delaware Land and Water Conservation Trust Fund (DLWCF), in the amount of \$100,000 to assist the City in constructing a basketball court, a picnic plaza, a pathway and other improvements at Helen Chambers Park (the "Project"); and

WHEREAS, DLWCF's grant requires matching funds of \$100,000, which was approved in the FY2012 Capital Budget; and

WHEREAS, the Department is now ready to move forward with the Project and has put the Project out for bid; and

WHEREAS, a special account must be established for administering the Project, and in order to establish such account, a resolution approving the DLWCF grant is required; and

WHEREAS, the Council deems it necessary and appropriate to authorize the Department to accept the grant from DLWCF and proceed with the Project.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WILMINGTON that the Department is hereby authorized to accept the \$100,000 in grant funding from DLWCF to assist the City with the Project.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department shall be authorized to take all necessary actions to administer the grant and the Project for the City of Wilmington.

Mr. Chukwuocha: Yes, this is a Resolution being presented on behalf of the Administration and Department of Parks and Recreation. It was discussed yesterday in the Youth and Families Committee - - Education, Youth & Families Committee and basically it was a grant received and an account was deactivated and so this is allowing that account to be reestablished and for those funds to be accessed to allow for the projects that that grant was associated with - - there's actually two grants, one for \$100,000 and the one which will follow for \$120,000.

President Pro Temp Walsh: Any other comments from Council? Clerk will call the roll.

Upon a motion of Mr. Chukwuocha, seconded by Mr. Michael Brown, Mr. Freel and Ms. Shabazz, the aforementioned Resolution was received, adopted as read and directed to be recorded and filed by the following Yea and Nay Roll Call Vote: Yeas, Council Members Chukwuocha, Congo, Darius Brown, Shabazz, Prado, Dorsey Walker, Williams, Freel, Michael Brown, Cabrera, Wright, and President Pro Temp Walsh. Total, twelve. Nays, none. Absent, President Gregory. Total, one.

President Pro Temp Walsh: Declare it passed.

Mr. Chukwuocha: Second Resolution.

President Pro Temp Walsh: Second Resolution.

Mr. Michael Brown: Madame President.

President Pro Temp Walsh: Can we get a correction on that number? Isn't it twelve and one absent?

President Pro Temp Walsh: Yes.

Mrs. Seijo: Thank you so much Mr. Brown. Twelve Yeas and One Absent.

Mr. Michael Brown: Okay.

Mrs. Seijo: Thank you.

President Pro Temp Walsh: We're glad to have you back to edit our Council meetings, thank you.

Mrs. Seijo: Yeah.

Mr. Chukwuocha presented Resolution No. 15-002 (Agenda #4011) as follows:

WHEREAS, Section 2-363 of the City Code requires all City-sponsored grant applications and proposals to be approved by resolution of Council; and

WHEREAS, the City, through its Department of Parks and Recreation (the "Department"), was awarded a grant in 2008 from the Delaware Land and Water Conservation Trust Fund (DLWCF), in the amount of \$120,000 to assist the City with playground improvements at Brown Park, Eastlawn Playground, Tatnall Street Playground and Brown Burton Winchester Park (the "Project"); and

WHEREAS, DLWCF's grant requires matching funds of \$120,000, which was approved in the FY2008 Capital Budget; and

WHEREAS, the Department is now ready to move forward with the Project and has put the Project out for bid; and

WHEREAS, a special account must be established for administering the Project, and in order to establish such account, a resolution approving the DLWCF grant is required; and

WHEREAS, the Council deems it necessary and appropriate to authorize the Department to accept the grant from DLWCF and proceed with the Project.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WILMINGTON that the Department is hereby authorized to accept the \$120,000 in grant funding from DLWCF to assist the City with the Project.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department shall be authorized to take all necessary actions to administer the grant and the Project for the City of Wilmington.

Mr. Chukwuocha: This is a companion piece to the previous Resolution that dealt with a grant and this amount is \$120,000. It's reauthorizing these funds to be accessed for four parks and those four parks are Brown – the Brown Park, Eastlawn Park, Tatnall Street and Brown Burton Winchester Parks.

President Pro Temp Walsh: Any other comments by Council? Council Member Shabazz.

Ms. Shabazz: Yes, ma'am, thank you Madam Pro Temp. I'm excited to see that this is coming up. We did received this money a while ago and I know that our young people and that communities and families will happy to see that we'll be able to get - - do some renovations and upgrading to our parks. So, I definitely support this this evening.

President Pro Temp Walsh: I agree with you Council Member. For your area too, and I know the one on Eastlawn, we've been working on that for over four years and so it's nice to finally see something being done. So, thank you. Council Member Darius Brown.

Mr. Darius Brown: Thank you Madam President. May I be added as a co-sponsor?

President Pro Temp Walsh: Clerk will note.

Mrs. Seijo: So noted.

President Pro Temp Walsh: Clerk will call the roll please.

Upon a motion of Mr. Chukwuocha, seconded by Mr. Prado and Ms. Shabazz, the aforementioned Resolution was received, adopted as read and directed to be recorded and filed by the following Yea and Nay Roll Call Vote: Yeas, Council Members Chukwuocha, Congo, Darius Brown, Shabazz, Prado, Dorsey Walker, Williams, Freel, Michael Brown, Cabrera, Wright, and President Pro Temp Walsh. Total, twelve. Nays, none. Absent, President Gregory. Total, one.

President Pro Temp Walsh: Declare it passed.

Mr. Chukwuocha: Final Resolution to present.

On behalf of President Gregory, Mr. Chukwuocha presented Resolution No. 15-003 (Agenda #4012) as follows:

WHEREAS, the proliferation of charter schools has prompted lawmakers, public officials and community leaders across Delaware to express their concerns about additional new charter schools, fearing the significant hardship they could place on traditional school districts and their surrounding communities; and

WHEREAS, State law requires that proposed charter schools be reviewed by the Delaware Department of Education, which is charged with, among many factors, considering the impact that charter schools would have on local schools and communities; and

WHEREAS, officials and community leaders within the City of Wilmington have expressed their own concerns about how charter schools effect the character of the City as well as its neighborhoods, including the physical impact of educational institutions located in residential and commercial areas.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WILMINGTON, that the Council joins lawmakers and public officials across the State of Delaware in expressing its concerns about the proliferation of charter schools in the City of Wilmington and throughout the State, and respectfully urges the Delaware Department of Education to institute a moratorium on new charter school

application reviews as elected officials and community leaders continue to study the impact that existing charter schools have throughout the State, and particularly within the City of Wilmington.

Mr. Chukwuocha: Yes, this is Resolution presented on behalf of President Gregory and its firm in-line with where we're going as far as the Education, Youth & Families Committee and really trying to establish our City's voice within the educational rim for our children and we all know for the past four decades our City has been stripped of a role - - official role in the education of our children and our City's attempt what we're trying to do is to begin to reestablish a voice and we see this as one opportunity to begin to do that. By one, saying that we wish or request no more charters to be placed within the City's boundaries until we as a City begin to assess some of the impact that it's having within our City as far as infrastructure and how it impacts communities and also we as City begin to develop our own education plan for our City and how we can not only have a role an invested role in the education landscape of our City but also geared towards the educational outcome for our children and I'd just like to also say that many people are saying that this is anti-charter. It's really not anti-charter, it's really pro Wilmington, about Wilmington having the authority and being in the position of being able to say that we believe that this is in the best interest of not only our children but also our communities and our City on a whole.

President Pro Temp Walsh: Thank you, Council Member Williams.

Mr. Williams: Thank you Madam Chair. I just think that it's a little harsh that we're asking for a moratorium. It's says right in the Ordinance itself or the Resolution itself that State laws requires that the proposed charters be reviewed by the Department of Education. I think that the language we could send could be a little softer and say, we would ask them to keep us informed or keep us in mind while they do this review process but a complete moratorium I think would be out of line.

President Pro Temp Walsh: Council Member Dorsey Walker.

Ms. Dorsey Walker: Thank you Madam President. While I understand everything that Councilman Chukwuocha was expressing regarding the City of Wilmington and our involvement in the educational system and I wholeheartedly agree with him. I don't agree with this particular piece of legislation and the reason - or this Resolution and the reason being is, I don't believe that it's the fault of the charter schools that's what's happening in the City of Wilmington. I believe that we need to do a better job with our districts. Our districts need to do a better job of keeping our children and then we will not have a need for these kinds of schools in the City of Wilmington. Thank you.

President Pro Temp Walsh: Council Member Shabazz.

Ms. Shabazz: Thank you Madame Chair. I am a co-sponsor on this Resolution and also a supporter of charter schools in the City of Wilmington but I think that this is something that we do need to send a message that it's time for City of Wilmington to have say into the education of our children. Some charter schools have come in with their - - in efforts to try to provide a unorthodox or a different way of educating our children and the result of it is after they go through the two or three years of trying, those children - - and were not successful, those children were given a ill - - an ill education and/or left to still struggle to go forward without the foundations. I think this piece of legislation as Councilman Chukwuocha stated that it gives us an opportunity to gather a plan that we know that is essential for the betterment of the education of our children, that we would have more control and more say and that then after we have got a plan and direction and we can deal with - - open the more - open the up again for charter schools that meet the requirements and have proven themselves to be able to come and educate our children to the quality that we like, then we can always lift the moratorium. But, we have a numerous amount, in the last few years, amount of charter schools that have come into us - - come into our City and I think this is a great step towards us in really just demonstrating to the Department of Education that we are capable of - - have a say to education of our children in deciding who best and what's best for our children. Thank you ma'am.

President Pro Temp Walsh: Council Member Cabrera.

Ms. Cabrera: I have to say that I agree with everything that my Council colleague has said here on the floor. I do agree that the word moratorium seems a bit harsh. I'm also concerned that for the lack of the State of Delaware and our school system that we have in this State and even in our country that we're saying that we - - we're not saying that we're against the charters and we're not blaming but one of the reason that a lot of them have popped up is because the lack of the quality of education. Now, most recently, I just got done doing my choice application for my son to go into 6th grade and yes, I applied to several charters because there's no way I'm sending him to his feeder school. That's not happening. So, I like having those choices and at the same time everything that Councilwoman Shabazz is true. We should have more of a say because of a lot of schools have come into the City and they have given parents false hopes and now what happens to those children? Yes, they loss two or three years of their life; they did not get the education that was promised; the schools just alone in this week, they announced that two schools are going to be shut down; then what do we do with these children? So, there has to be better control. We know we don't have a voice so this is a way to send a message to have a voice. We've had some excellent schools come into our City but I also asked a question, why are we not - - why are they not looking in southern Delaware in places where the distance from the community to the school is so far apart and put some of those schools in there because we're getting an excessive amount of schools within the City. I am going to support this for the reasons discussed; my name is on here and I know that Councilman Chukwuocha and the Committee, they've done their due diligence and their study on this. But, I do agree wholeheartedly as well with the comments that Councilman Williams and Councilwoman Dorsey made.

President Pro Temp Walsh: Councilman Darius Brown.

Mr. Darius Brown: Thank you Madame President. I think it's fair to say that I have a large amount of schools in my - - in my Council district and as physical institutions, most of them are charter schools and most of them are the charter schools that our State highlights as being successful whether its Prestige, Thomas Edison or Eastside Charter. But, we also have challenges with other charter schools as we read in the paper this week around Moyer Academy and so, I understand the saturation of schools; I also understand the challenge that we have in our public schools and what we need is a voice from this body. I think what this session of Council has continued to attempt to do is to make sure that we are a voice around different policy issues within the City and throughout the State that affect the residents of the City of Wilmington. We can't ask our parents to go to PTA meetings and be engaged at the school district level while we neglect that same responsibility to lift our voices here in this body in this Chamber. So, I will be supporting this legislation tonight.

President Pro Temp Walsh: Council Member Congo.

Mr. Congo: Yes, thank you Madame President. Yeah this is strong language but I think it's necessary. The State doesn't listen to us anyway, so, I think we need to send this kind of message to let them know that we're - - that we're serious about the education of our children. I don't see it as anti-charter at all. I just think it just - - we're just pro education and we just want to have a voice as we've been asking for (ia voice and educating our children for the last fifteen years at least on the books and the State has never listened. So, I think we have to send this type of strong message. So, I am going to support this. Thank you.

President Pro Temp Walsh: Council Member, before you have the last word, number one, I'd like to be added as a sponsor.

Mrs. Seijo: So noted.

President Pro Temp Walsh: And, my personal opinion, every single time the State of Delaware the Department of Education allows another charter to come into the City of Wilmington and we just sit by and don't do everything till our last breath to defend it now, we are putting another nail into public education in the coffin of public education in the City of Wilmington and this needs to stop because is the ultimate goal to have no public education in the City of Wilmington? And, I think this is a great Resolution and I'd be proud to be a co-sponsor of it. Would you like to say anything to end it.

Mr. Chukwuocha: Yes, just a few things I would like to note as far as a lot of the work that is being done in that this Resolution is a part of a much bigger effort. In one, in which being not only the creation of an education plan for our City but also part of our initiative is to create and first of all, create what we're calling Wilmington

Education Alliance where we're trying to create an environment within our City where there's alliance and partnerships between all of our schools both the traditional public schools as well as the charters. Where we create an environment where the success - - successful schools are showing that success the schools that aren't succeeding. We also want to create an environment where the business communities and who we looked about some of the schools who are often allotted and supported and raged about doing great things in Wilmington. They also have a lot of outside financial support. So, what we're trying to do as a City, as a body, as it create an environment with our business communities so we can to work to establish those types of business support for all of our schools in Wilmington. And, lastly, we're want to create the plan and then we want to bring all them together in advisory position and then we want to create what we're calling the Office of Education - - Office of Education and Public Policy here in our City.

So, we will be able to play a role in governing our own educational children - - responsibility for our children; us having an official role as a City and we're working to establish that. That is our intent and again this is just one part of a bigger plan and again, we're not saying that we don't want charter because if you were to ask me personally what do we need? We do need a charter. We need a charter that is geared toward students who are high age and low in credits and the same students who end up being kicked out of the traditional schools, who will end up on the streets with the guns creating the havoc and chaos within our streets, we need something that's going to reengage them. We need a program for the students who've already dropped out. There are charter schools models all across the country that has these types of programs. So, we can bring a charter here but it needs to address the needs of Wilmington and till date we haven't had that and we want to be able to say that this is our need and we would like to invite charters here that meets the specific needs of our City.

President Pro Temp Walsh: Clerk will call the roll.

Upon a motion of Mr. Chukwuocha, seconded by Mr. Freel and Ms. Shabazz, the aforementioned Resolution was received, adopted as read and directed to be recorded and filed by the following Yea and Nay Roll Call Vote: Yeas, Council Members Chukwuocha, Congo, Darius Brown, Shabazz, Freel, Michael Brown, Cabrera, Wright, and President Pro Temp Walsh. Total, nine. Nays, Council Members Prado, Dorsey Walker and Williams. Total, three. Absent, President Gregory. Total, one.

President Pro Temp Walsh: Declare it passed; Mr. Congo.

Mr. Congo: Nothing tonight Madame President, thank you.

President Pro Temp Walsh: Mr. Darius Brown.

Mr. Darius Brown: Nothing tonight, thank you Madame President.

President Pro Temp Walsh: Ms. Shabazz.

Ms. Shabazz: Yes Madame President, I have an Ordinance to present and call for the first and second reading.

Ms. Shabazz presented and called for the first and second reading Ordinance No. 15-001 (Agenda #4013) entitled:

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 44 OF THE CITY CODE REGARDING THE DURATION OF THE WILMINGTON DOWNTOWN BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT, ASSESSMENTS ON PROPERTIES LOCATED WITHIN THE WILMINGTON DOWNTOWN BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT, AND THE ISSUANCE OF LICENSES TO DELINQUENT LICENSEES

This Ordinance was given two separate readings by title only and upon a motion of Ms. Shabazz, seconded by Mr. Wright, the aforementioned Ordinance was received, recorded and referred to the Community and Economic Development Committee. Motion prevailed.

Ms. Shabazz: That's all for tonight, thank you.

President Pro Temp Walsh: Mr. Prado.

Mr. Prado: Nothing tonight Madame President.

President Pro Temp Walsh: Ms. Dorsey Walker.

Ms. Dorsey Walker: Nothing tonight. Thank you Madame President.

President Pro Temp Walsh: Mr. Williams.

Mr. Williams: No legislative business this evening. Thank you Madame.

President Pro Temp Walsh: Mr. Freel.

Mr. Freel: Nothing, thank you.

President Pro Temp Walsh: Mr. Michael Brown.

Mr. Michael Brown: Yes Madame President, I do have a Resolution to present.

Mr. Michael Brown presented Resolution No. 15-004 (Agenda #4014)° as follows:

WHEREAS, the Wilmington Community Policing Initiative (the “Initiative”) is a proposal by the City of Wilmington, with the assistance of the Delaware Department of Justice, to aggressively implement an expanded, visible and effective community policing presence in specific high-crime neighborhoods within the City of Wilmington; and

WHEREAS, funding to support the Initiative will be used by the Delaware Department of Justice to pay overtime to officers of the Wilmington Police Department, New Castle County Police Department and Delaware State Police Department who volunteer to serve as patrol officers in neighborhoods and at times selected by the Wilmington Police Department through the use of crime incidence data; and

WHEREAS, The Initiative would allow for the use of best practices in a number of areas, including advice from front-line officers regarding effective tactics and deployment, use of crime incidence data to make adjustments to tactics and deployment, involvement of community residents both at the decision-making level and in face-to-face contact with officers patrolling neighborhoods on foot, and effective training of officers in legal and other issues involved in visible foot patrols of high-crime areas; and

WHEREAS, a joint application from the City of Wilmington and the Delaware Department of Justice for the Neighborhood Building Blocks grant in the amount of \$640,200 will allow for the deployment of six additional foot patrol officers and one supervisor in high-crime areas in the City of Wilmington from March 1st through August 31st, from 6 p.m. to 1 a.m., seven days a week. It will also allow for compensation of officers to undergo the one-hour training that will be a prerequisite for participation in the Initiative, and preparation of the training itself; and

WHEREAS, upon reward of the grant, the City of Wilmington will dedicate a portion of its weekly Tactical Analytical Policing System (TAPS) meeting with the participating police departments and the Delaware Department of Justice officials on the status of the Initiative. In addition, the Wilmington Police and the Department of Justice will meet monthly with residents of neighborhoods where foot patrol has been occurring, in order to solicit advice from residents on the success of the program and potential improvements.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WILMINGTON, that this Council hereby supports the City of Wilmington and the Delaware Department of Justice on their application to secure a grant from the Neighborhood Building Blocks Fund to support the Wilmington Community Policing Initiative.

Mr. Michael Brown: Yes Madame President, this Resolution is being presented by Council for its review and approval and if it’s approved, Council would be expressing support for the Wilmington Community Policing Initiative proposed by newly elected Attorney General Matt Denn to aggressively implement and expand visibility and

effective community policing presence in a specific high-crime neighborhood in Wilmington. The funding is in the amount of \$640,200 and would be used by the Delaware Department of Justice to pay overtime to police officers of the Wilmington Police Department, New Castle County Police Department and the State Police Department who volunteer to serve as patrol officers - - patrol officers in the neighborhoods at times selected by the Wilmington Police Department through the use of crime incidence data. The initiative would also allow for the use of best practice in a number of areas, including advice from front-line officers regarding effective tactics and involvement of effective tactics and deployment in some crime incidence data to make adjustments to tactics and deployment involvement of community residents both at the decision making level and in face-to-face contact with officers patrolling neighborhoods on foot, and effective training of officers in legal and other issues involving visible foot patrols in high-crime areas.

President Pro Temp Walsh: Council Member Williams.

Mr. Williams: Thank you Madame. First, I'd like to be added as a co-sponsor. Secondly, I just want to point out what this doesn't cover, is that the six officers that would be walking on foot patrol, those six spots would first be offered to the Wilmington Department of Police because after all this is a community relations building grant to try and exposed our officers to the community on foot so that they become more familiar and more intertwined with the neighbors. If Wilmington cannot fulfill those six spots then it would be back filled by State and New Castle County also. So, it's important to point out that Wilmington has first shot at this and then back filled by the other agencies. At first I wasn't feeling that 110% because how would a New Castle County officer build a community relation within our City? However, in taking a step and looking at it a little further, having the County and the State officers in the City allows for Wilmington officers to not be depleted under this grant and assigned here to fill these spots so it frees officers up so that they can also work other grants that are out there. So, I do support it. I do see the bigger picture and I think it is important that regardless of whether you wear a blue, brown or light blue uniform, the police department as a whole embraces the Wilmington community and hopefully the Wilmington community embraces the police agencies that are out there doing this job.

President Pro Temp Walsh: Ms. Dorsey Walker.

Ms. Dorsey Walker: Thank you Madame President. I wholeheartedly agree with what Councilman Williams stated but I also wanted to point out the fact that community policing has made a huge difference and in particular in my district. The officers walk the community; they talk to their constituents; they come to all the events, they actually sponsor - help sponsor events in our district and so I feel that if we can have the Wilmington Police officers, especially the community policing officers walking with New Castle County and State officers, I think it would look a huge difference in our communities and building those relationships with County and State. Thank you Madame President.

President Pro Temp Walsh: Mr. Congo.

Mr. Congo: Thank you. I definitely agree with this Resolution. When I first talked to Matt Denn about it, I was very excited because this is what we've been asking for, for so long but it does bring me a little concern. Just that I think it sets a high standard on the amount that officers are going to get paid for walking, for doing the overtime. I think it's like \$70 an hour. So, I'm not sure what kind of standard that's going to set after this grant runs out if that ever comes to be. I guess I'm frustrated because it is six officers and I just can't see how we can't find six officers to do this anyway with a police department of over three hundred officers. I'm not a police officer, I don't know about policing but it's just hard for me to understand how we can't find six officers to walk our neighborhood, we had to wait for this grant and what's going to happen after this grant. But of course, I'm going to support it. We just can't turn this type of support down that Matt has - - is going to provide for us but it just brings - - I just, I just have a little concern about it and hopefully, I'm not sure how they're going to deploy the officers but hopefully there will be some type of communication with the community if they're going to walk so that the community can walk with them. I think that's going to be a very important piece that it's just not the officers that there's community members walking with them just to show that - - just to show that unified support. That's all, thank you.

President Pro Temp Walsh: Ms. Cabrera.

Ms. Cabrera: Yes thank you. I too would like to be added as a sponsor and Council Member Shabazz and myself had met with the Attorney General elect at that time Matt Denn to discussed this. And, one of the things that we took away is that I personally believe he's going to be very aggressive in helping us here in the City of Wilmington to address, to prosecute and to prevent crime in our City. He is committed to Wilmington and it is - - it is - - I feel hopeful to see a State elected official committing and saying that they are committing and he expressed these comments at the rally this evening for public safety officers at Rodney Square. Our residents have been asking for more officers on foot and there are many who are already doing this but not in the numbers that we need and as Councilwoman Dorsey stated, she alone has seen difference in her community as we see in others. But, there are still areas where there is a void and people are concern. Most recently today in a conversation on social media, this topic came up and as one person said, community policing is a - - is a philosophy that every officer should embrace but as someone came back and said, we're not going to have those personal relationships with the three hundred and twenty-six officers, you're going to build relationships with community police officers. So, at the same time one of the concerns that I have, and I agree with Councilman Congo, you know, can we use this money a little differently to grow our community policing initiatives? We have had several people transfer or leave community policing and those bodies are not being replaced. So, the few that are left are being stretched thin. So, I do support this; I want to be added as a sponsor; the overtime, I know that that is being put in there for up to that

for overtime, that doesn't mean that they have to be paid on overtime if it's part of their assigned duty but those are details that we can work out because truly I'd like to see part of this money used to beef up our community policing police officers but I also want to see every one of our police officers embrace the community policing model because that's what we need.

President Pro Temp Walsh: Council Member Darius Brown.

Mr. Darius Brown: Thank you Madame President. I'd like to be added as a co-sponsor.

Mrs. Seijo: So noted.

Mr. Darius Brown: As looking through the synopsis, just as commentary, it reads advice from front-line officers, that's very vague but I'll just leave that there with that part of my comment. I think that the Department of Justice is making a great effort to support the City of Wilmington. It's something that we talk about, you know, year after year but I will say that community policing should not be a unit. It should be a department philosophy and it should not take this grant to get our police officers out of their cars, walking through our neighborhoods. So, I am being optimistic; I am being overly optimistic tonight that hopefully this will be the beginning of some new things in our police department because with them committing to this, they cannot come back to us and say they can't – can no longer do foot patrols because clearly they've been able to do it. They cannot say they cannot engage the community around a philosophy of community policing because with this grant clearly they're able to do it.

President Pro Temp Walsh: Council Member Shabazz.

Ms. Shabazz: Thank you Madame President. I too would like to be added as a co-sponsor.

Mrs. Seijo: So noted.

Ms. Shabazz: As I - - when I and my - - and Councilwoman Cabrera met with at that time elect Attorney General Matt Denn, I was very excited to see that we had an elected official who put money where his mouth was and he hadn't gotten into office yet and he had already demonstrated that he was going to do what he said he was going to do and a lot of times its talk but there he had found where the money was and put it with and put the money and, and identified where there's resources and made it an opportunity for Wilmington to get what we said what we've been wanting and that was community policing walking. I'm hoping that and I hear all my colleagues that it will create a philosophy; a practice; demonstrate that it can be done; see the results; impactful outcomes; community feeling much more safe because they see the police officers because it has demonstrated through other municipalities and cities that this walking the beat does work. I think we're heading in the right direction to address our crime issue.

And, so, I'm not just optimistic, I feel really confident that this is going to be a great thing. I know we have jurisdictional issues with who comes in whether the County comes in or the State comes in because Wilmington might not be able to fulfill it but they all work for us. They all - - you know, have some input; they all public servants, so, what color uniforms should not really matter because the goal is to protect and to serve. So, again, I want to be a sponsor on this and I definitely want to support this tonight.

President Pro Temp Walsh: And, City residents pay all three taxes.

Ms. Shabazz: All three of them.

President Pro Temp Walsh: Council Member Cabrera.

Ms. Cabrera: I'm sorry, I didn't know whether I was allowed to speak a second time or not.

President Pro Temp Walsh: Yes you are.

Ms. Cabrera: I did want to state that in a conversation and it's stated in here, this grant is really, they're looking at from doing this from March through September and of course if we can stretch the dollars and do it more often that would be great but we would hope that we can continue this. But, they were looking at the summer months where you have more activity on the street and in the neighborhoods that are the hot zones. Second, I do want to address the front-line part, the Councilman Darius brought up, Brown, Councilman Brown, one of the things that I have said, you know, a lot of times people sit around and you come up with these policing plans and we're going to do this and this what they did that city and the other, and I often ask the question, and I ask it of the ranking file, meaning the people that are on patrol, patrolling our streets and I asked the leadership, at some point, did anybody sit down and actually speak to the police officers, to the men and women who risk their life every day to protect and serve our City? As we had a police officer shot at this very evening. So, have we sat down and talked to them? And, you know, the answer is negative. So, at some point, this conversation has to be had and this is something that again, the Attorney General Matt Denn and myself at the rally discussed. Let's listen to what they have to say. Let's see what input and solutions they may offer and then let's all work together. I'm happy to see all three entities, County, State and Wilmington working together. The solution is not going to be just looking at this one-way. We have to look at this in so many different ways and it's about time that we start working together. I'm sorry. I had to make those comments.

President Pro Temp Walsh: Thank you. I also met with Attorney General Denn. He actually wanted to meet with me on Christmas Eve and I said to him, spoken like a male who has nothing to do right before a holiday. And, we had a grand talk and number one, Attorney General Denn used to live in the City of Wilmington and I think if he hadn't gotten married, he probably still would live in the City of Wilmington because

he enjoyed it so much living here. I love seeing how proactive he is towards our City but I had some major concerns about this too because I've seen grant money being given to us in the past that kind of gets flushed down that toilet that we have no idea where the money actually went. So, I was very pleased to hear that we're not getting the money. This is an agreement that is signed between the City and State and there are going to be a whole bunch of checks and balances on this money and we're going to get reimbursed for this money. So, as long as the checks and balances are in there, I think that's just a really good thing and I do thank him. I thank him for the concern for this City; he gets the big picture; he realizes that when we go down the drain, it's not that long before the rest of the State comes with this; and I think the amount of shootings that the County has faced, especially since they broke up that heroin ring, because please people don't also get false hopes that part of the calming down that happened in the City in this last six in a half weeks is because they did bust up that huge heroin ring. But, I still think that we're seeing the uptick again because obviously people are taking over once again but the County I also believe is seeing a big uptick in the amount of crimes that they're facing. So, the sponsor - Mr. Brown.

Mr. Michael Brown: Yes Madame Chair. Thank you very much and first of all let me - - let me also thank Attorney General Matt Denn because on Christmas, the day after Christmas that morning we met for two in a half hours discussing this and other things about the City and the future of the City and how he in his - in his new position would be able to help with the City. And, I was really pleased that he took the time and respect to call me to ask me to meet with him to discuss this and other issues. Let me correct a couple of things first before I closed out. One is, Councilman Brown mentioned about he'd like to see - - he wanted - - he hoped there be no excuses once this grant ends that there is no such thing as they can't community police. Each police officer from my understanding from day one is considered a community police officer, each police officer. Now, how they define that and how they work that is a whole new different picture and a different story.

Secondly, and along with that, this grant money, Attorney General Denn is hoping to see if he can find more money before this money even expires. And, I think with his energy I kind of got a little, a little confidence that he's going to dig deep and find some extra money to continue to move forward with the help that we have. With the statement - - one of the statement Councilwoman Cabrera made about tonight a police officer was shot at, that's not accurate. There was an issue out on the north side of Wilmington and that - but it was not to the point where a police officer was shot at and so, I just want to make sure that we put out when we put out stuff, that this body, that we put out - - so our phones, all our phones don't start ringing because somebody got - heard the wrong thing and we have to try to go back and try to explain that. That's not putting anything - putting anybody or throwing a blanket on anybody in here, it's just that putting the right information out. Now, in terms of accepting this money, look, look, I think it's a good idea just like everybody else does and somebody said it, it doesn't matter to me what uniform is. You know, if you remember right here in this Chamber about a year in a half ago, one hundred County police officers and one hundred City

police officers, they didn't have to do it but they did it, was sworn in to have jurisdiction in each ones jurisdiction. And, I believe somebody told me out of Dover that they got a phone call and told them to stop because they were going to what Mike Brown has been saying all along, metropolitan police public safety. And, so, and so, I just – I just say that they have the ability, they meaning the police officers from the County, City and the State, they have the ability to go in each ones jurisdiction if necessary and this grant helps push that through. And, so, I'm hoping that we – we all would join in and be supportive of what is taking place and support Attorney General Matt Denn because right now we're on the fifteen day of January. We've had four shootings, well five shootings and two killings and two murders – two murders. And so, well three today but, you know, but you know let's get the numbers right but the things that are going on in our City, we're really are looking for help and I'll take help if it's positive in any way we can. But, we also got keep in mind that this is not the executive branch. This is the legislative branch and we can only do our part and the executive branch has to be willing to want to do its part. So, having said that Ms. Madame President, I thank you for the opportunity, and thank you.

President Pro Temp Walsh: Clerk will call the roll.

Mrs. Seijo: Mr. Chukwuocha.

Mr. Chukwuocha: Yes.

Ms. Dorsey Walker: I want to be added as a co-sponsor. I raised my hand several times.

Mrs. Seijo: Mr. Congo.

Mr. Congo: Yes.

President Pro Temp Walsh: Yes, you already started the roll, it doesn't get interrupted for anything....

Upon a motion of Mr. Michael Brown, seconded by Mr. Williams, the aforementioned Resolution was received, adopted as read and directed to be recorded and filed by the following Yea and Nay Roll Call Vote: Yeas, Council Members Chukwuocha, Congo, Darius Brown, Shabazz, Prado, Dorsey Walker, Williams, Freel, Michael Brown, Cabrera, Wright, and President Pro Temp Walsh. Total, twelve. Nays, none. Absent, President Gregory. Total, one.

President Pro Temp Walsh: Declare it adopted. Ms. Cabrera.

Ms. Cabrera: Nothing this evening Madame.

°**Note:** It was duly noted at Feb. 19th Council meeting that minutes of January 15th to be amended and approved to add Councilwoman Dorsey Walker as a co-sponsor to Resolution No. 15-004 (Agenda #4014).

President Pro Temp Walsh: Thank you. I do have a Resolution that Mr. Chukwuocha is going to do on my behalf and it's going to be read in its entirety too.

Mr. Chukwuocha: Madame Chair, I have a Resolution to present on your behalf.

President Pro Temp Walsh: Thank you.

On behalf of President Pro Temp Walsh, Mr. Chukwuocha presented Resolution No. 15-005 (Agenda #4015) as follows:

WHEREAS, on New Year's Eve, outgoing Illinois Governor Pat Quinn granted clemency to three abolitionists convicted of "crimes" for hiding and helping escaped slaves; and

WHEREAS, similar efforts have begun to pardon three notable Delawareans for criminal convictions connected with their endeavors in smuggling slaves to freedom; and

WHEREAS, among those being considered for a pardon are Thomas Garrett, John Hunn and Samuel Burris; and

WHEREAS, prominent Quaker abolitionist Thomas Garrett, who is credited with helping more than 2,700 slaves to freedom, worked closely with Harriet Tubman, abolitionist and leader of the Underground Railroad; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his abolitionist work, Garrett supported the City's black residents and generously provided the funding for land where Bishop Peter Spencer built the nation's first fully independent black church known as Mother African Union Church; and

WHEREAS, Odessa area farmer and abolitionist John Hunn was a member of the Camden Friends Meeting and was convicted with Garrett for aiding the Hawkins family, whose trail to freedom is documented at the New Castle Court House Museum; and

WHEREAS, a free black man and partner of Hunn's, Samuel Burris was heavily involved in helping slaves from Maryland and southern Delaware and was caught, jailed and convicted with the automatic sentence of being sold for slavery, but was ultimately released back to freedom by the highest bidder; and

WHEREAS, as eloquently stated by Governor Quinn "These early warriors for freedom put everything on the line to help their fellow man, and their civil disobedience paved the way for civil rights...[c]learing their criminal records shows how far we have come, but reminds us all that we should fight injustice wherever we find it."

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WILMINGTON, that Council salutes the unwavering humanitarian efforts of those who fought for the freedom of the enslaved, and further encourages

Governor Jack Markell to grant pardons for Thomas Garrett, John Hunn and Samuel Burris, who put their lives on the line to champion the cause.

Mr. Chukwuocha: I think it clearly speaks for itself and I think, I'm sure – it speaks for itself definitely.

President Pro Temp Walsh: Council Member Williams.

Mr. Williams: Although my heart tells me that we should have waited till February but this is something that can't wait.

President Pro Temp Walsh: It is something that can't wait because, if I may, last year I received the award of the Tubman Garrett Award that is the proudest award that I've ever received except for motherhood in my entire life. And, one of the members of the family who has worked very hard on this is seriously ill and we wanted to get this through as quickly as possible for the Governor to be able to move also, which is why we didn't wait until February. But, your point is well taken.

Mr. Williams: Absolutely.

President Pro Temp Walsh: Anyone else have anything? Clerk will call the - - oh, Council Member Congo.

Mr. Congo: I just have a question, you said, one of the family members has been working hard in getting this done and have been met with resistance or?

President Pro Temp Walsh: No, no, no, no, no – no, not at all. There just isn't a good prognosis for the member that they're going to survive until then.

Mr. Congo: Ok, all right. Thank you.

President Pro Temp Walsh: Clerk will call the roll.

Upon a motion of Mr. Chukwuocha, seconded by Mr. Williams, the aforementioned Resolution was received, adopted as read and directed to be recorded and filed by the following Yea and Nay Roll Call Vote: Yeas, Council Members Chukwuocha, Congo, Darius Brown, Shabazz, Prado, Dorsey Walker, Williams, Freel, Michael Brown, Cabrera, Wright, and President Pro Temp Walsh. Total, twelve. Nays, none. Absent, President Gregory. Total, one.

President Pro Temp Walsh: Declare it passed.

Mr. Darius Brown: Madame President may I be excused?

President Pro Temp Walsh: Well, I'd like to call Mr. Wright first. Do you have any legislation Mr. Wright?

Mr. Wright: No ma'am. May I be excused as well?

President Pro Temp Walsh: Yes.

Mr. Michael Brown: President, may I?

President Pro Temp Walsh: Yes. Anyone else?

Mr. Freel: Yes, I'd like to be excused.

President Pro Temp Walsh: Thank you Mr. Freel.

Mr. Freel: Thank you.

PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS

Council Members announced committee meetings/civic association meetings and community events throughout their districts. Council Members spoke on the following matters: Charter School Art Show at the Community Education Building on January 30th from 6:00pm to 8:00pm; available scholarship money; a concern from the residents at Baynard Apartments regarding a transformer that needs to be repair and how the residents were asked to sleep on cots in the community room (Council staff was asked to contact WHA); the Executive Committee of the National Black Caucus of Locally Elected Officials (NBC LEO) will be visiting the City of Wilmington from January 22nd through January 24th and holding their meetings at the law offices of Young, Conoway, Stargatt and Taylor, who were thanked for allowing the use of their facility and other entities were also thanked for sponsoring the NBC LEO meetings in Wilmington; article in the paper of DuPont leaving the City, however, it was duly mentioned that there are other good businesses/new businesses in the City and the need to talk about the great things that's happening in Wilmington; 5th District community police officer who will be on leave for a year and that no new officer has been assigned to that district yet; clean-up and parade on Martin Luther King Day (Jan. 19th) in the 6th District; prayers were expressed to those involved in the incident that happened tonight in north Wilmington and people were encouraged not to listen to rumors and to be patient and understanding and wait to find out what happened; the newly elected Council members were wished a happy two year anniversary of being inaugurated; Public Safety Rally at Rodney Square; deadline for Healthcare open enrollment; and including but not limited to a new News Journal reporter will be on board soon.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon a motion of Ms. Cabrera, seconded by Mr. Williams, Council adjourned at 7:50 p.m. Motion prevailed.

Attest: Maribel Seijo
Maribel Seijo, City Clerk