

**RES15-007**

Wilmington, Delaware  
February 5, 2015

**WHEREAS**, approximately 3% of students in Delaware drop out of school each year and dropout rates continue to increase at an alarming rate for one-third of Delaware public schools; and

#4017

**WHEREAS**, students residing in the City of Wilmington drop out of school at a significantly higher rate than students residing elsewhere in Delaware; and

**Sponsor:**

**Council  
Member  
Wright**

**WHEREAS**, schools in the City of Wilmington face dropout rates as high as 27%, exceeding the State's average annual dropout rate; and

**Co-Sponsors:**

**WHEREAS**, state law permits students to drop out of school at the age of 16, thus severely crippling their potential, success, welfare, and the welfare of this City and the State; and

**Council  
President  
Gregory**

**WHEREAS**, the City of Wilmington is plagued with increasing crime rates and the highest unemployment rate among the major cities of the State; and

**Council  
Members  
Dorsey Walker  
Chukwuocha  
M. Brown  
Shabazz  
Walsh  
Cabrera**

**WHEREAS**, education leads to better health, higher wages, increased job opportunities, and lower crime rates within cities and neighborhoods; and

**WHEREAS**, the vast majority of jobs in America require a high school diploma and the demand for such jobs will continue to grow over the next several years; and

**WHEREAS**, President Barack Obama, in his 2012 State of the Union Address, and Vice President Joseph Biden consistently challenge states to raise the dropout age from 16 to 18 years; and

**WHEREAS**, the Council, with the support of Mayor Dennis P. Williams, strongly supports local and statewide efforts to provide an education and prepare all students for higher education and a lifetime of success.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WILMINGTON**, that the Council, with the support of Mayor Dennis P. Williams, supports all efforts by State legislators, the Delaware Secretary of Education and Governor Jack Markell to raise the compulsory school attendance age from 16 to 18 years in order to support the success of our youth, and to secure a better future for our families, the State, and the City of Wilmington.

Passed by City Council,  
February 5, 2015

ATTEST: Maribel Seijo  
City Clerk

Approved as to form this  
5<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2015

Danya Dhatnaga  
Assistant City Solicitor

**SYNOPSIS:** This resolution supports efforts of State legislators, the Delaware Secretary of Education and Governor Jack Markell to raise the State's compulsory school attendance age from 16 to 18 years.