

RES18-025

Wilmington, Delaware
April 5, 2018

#4501

Sponsors:

Council
Member
Congo

Council
President
Shabazz

Co-Sponsors:

Council
Members
Dixon
Williams

WHEREAS, addiction is a chronic disease plaguing many members of our community and March 6th is commemorated as Black Balloon Day, a national event aimed at raising awareness of overdose deaths and reducing the stigma of drug-related deaths; and

WHEREAS, drug overdose is the leading cause of accidental death in the United States, and overdose deaths involving prescription opioids were five times higher in 2016 than in 1999. Overdose deaths in Delaware climbed from 172 in 2012 to 228 in 2015, and again rising to 308 deaths in 2016; and

WHEREAS, research produced by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention notes a 105% increase – the 2nd highest in the United States – in Emergency Department visits for suspected opioid overdoses in Delaware, reaffirming the need for better coordination and collaboration amongst public health and public safety agencies; and

WHEREAS, having recognized the widespread and devastating nature of the opioid crisis, Senate Bill 48 and 147 in the Delaware General Assembly provide legal immunity to public safety personnel in connection with administering naloxone – a medication designed to rapidly reverse opioid overdose, expanding the privilege beyond peace officers. To date, 40 states and the District of Columbia have enacted some form of a Naloxone Good Samaritan Law, and this medication is now available without an individual prescription at participating Delaware pharmacies; and

WHEREAS, this day encourages stimulatory discussion to educate communities on overdose prevention and provide basic information on the range of support services that exist throughout the State of Delaware.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WILMINGTON, that Council seeks to call attention to the pain felt by family and friends who have dealt with overdose, and to commemorate the lives and legacies of loved ones lost as a result of a drug overdose. Council further endeavors to do its part to disseminate information about resources available to those suffering from drug addiction, and to advocate for increased resources to address this vital need.

Passed by City Council,
April 5, 2018

Attest: Maxibel Seijo
City Clerk

SYNOPSIS: This Resolution designates March 6th as “Black Balloon Day” in remembrance of individuals who have succumbed to opioid addiction throughout the State of Delaware, and declares Council’s commitment to advocating for resources and support for Wilmingtonians suffering from drug addiction.