

RES 18-061

Wilmington, Delaware  
September 20, 2018

#4572

Sponsor:

Council  
Member  
Harlee

**WHEREAS**, fireworks and other types of pyrotechnics can be an exciting and aesthetically pleasing way to commemorate an occasion that warrants celebration and recognition, when utilized safely and in accordance with laws and regulations; and

**WHEREAS**, the Delaware State Code stipulates that fireworks and other combustible devices can generally be used only by organizations with the appropriate permit for public display of fireworks. However, individuals are permitted to use sparklers and limited ground-based or hand-held devices on July 4, December 31 and January 1 of each year; and

**WHEREAS**, recently the nation celebrated the Fourth of July holiday and 242 years of independence. Despite the provisions of State law, residents in Wilmington have reported fireworks being used illegally, and sometimes in ways that could pose a threat to safety and property; and

**WHEREAS**, the National Fire Protection Association found that fireworks start an average of 18,500 fires every year, with amounts to approximately \$43 million in direct property damage. In 2017, an estimated 12,900 people were sent to the emergency room for fireworks-related injuries, and children accounted for more than one-third of that number; and

**WHEREAS**, fireworks have the capacity to add awe and entertainment in celebratory settings, but these low-grade explosives can disrupt communities, create respiratory hazards and can be dangerous, particularly for children; and

**WHEREAS**, the Wilmington Fire Department and the Wilmington Police Department not only serve to provide the people of Wilmington with emergency services and support to maintain order, but also work to educate the public on risky behaviors and situations. The Wilmington City Council encourages the Wilmington Fire Department and the Wilmington Police Department to continue to provide the public with information regarding the hazards and dangers of fireworks, and to enforce the restrictions set forth in the Delaware State Code. By providing the public with a robust education program on fireworks, we can work to eliminate the potential for damage to properties, injuries and even death.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WILMINGTON**, that City Council respectfully asks the Wilmington Fire Department and Wilmington Police Department to provide the people of Wilmington with a more robust educational program on the riskiness of using fireworks, and to enforce the restrictions set forth in the Delaware State Code.

Passed by City Council,  
September 20, 2018

Attest: Maribel Seijo  
City Clerk

**SYNOPSIS:** This Resolution encourages the Wilmington Fire Department and the Wilmington Police Department to continue to educate the public on the potential dangers and risks associated with fireworks and other pyrotechnic devices, and to enforce the restrictions set forth in the Delaware State Code pertaining to the inappropriate usage of fireworks.