

RES18-077

Wilmington, Delaware  
November 15, 2018

#4592

Sponsor:

Council  
President  
Shabazz

Co-Sponsor:

Council  
Member  
Harlee

Council  
Member  
Oliver

**WHEREAS**, the City of Wilmington is fortunate to benefit from the diversity of ages and backgrounds represented among its residents and visitors; and

**WHEREAS**, according to the last decennial Census conducted in 2010, the United States Census Bureau found some 8,185 residents ages 65 and older – a population comprising 11.6 percent of the Wilmington population. Subsequent data released by the Census Bureau in 2016 indicates an increase in that population, now comprising 12.8 percent of the population with an estimated total of 9,128 individuals; and

**WHEREAS**, the City has historically offered and administered a range of services and programs designed to assist seniors, particularly considering the financial constraints and expenses that can come with age. Those programs include a real estate tax exemption program, a water rate reduction program, a property tax exemption available to some caretakers of senior family members, and various programs through the Office of Constituent Services that provide necessary items, like fans, to seniors; and

**WHEREAS**, it is important that seniors are made aware of the services and programs available to them, so that they can access the support they may need. It is further important that the City has information on its senior residents; and

**WHEREAS**, in cities, towns and counties across the country, governmental leaders have taken steps to establish special supports for seniors, including programs like the New Castle County Police Senior Roll Call program which provides daily phone calls to enrollees to check on their wellbeing; and

**WHEREAS**, recognizing the benefit of the City maintaining information on seniors for the purposes of ensuring they are provided with available support and are informed about programs that they could qualify for, City Council seeks to partner with the Administration to establish a Senior Identification Program.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WILMINGTON**, that City Council respectfully encourages the Administration to establish a Senior Identification Program, and to take the following steps:

1. To establish a database with information on senior residents in Wilmington, to include basic contact information for the purpose of:
  - a. Ensuring that the City is able to keep senior residents informed about programs that could benefit them – including real estate tax exemptions and rate/fee waivers, as well as other programs and promotions currently in existence or that might arise in the future.
  - b. Ensuring that the City is aware of where seniors reside for emergency purposes.
  - c. Ensuring that the City adequately budgets for tax and fee exemptions available to seniors.
2. To establish a web page on the City website with information on this program, and with the option for users to register a senior for the database.
3. To partner with members of City Council, as well as Neighborhood Planning Council and Civic Association leaders, to spread the word about this program and about the benefits associated with being included in the database; among the tools that could be leveraged is the City's television station, WITN 22.

Passed by City Council,  
November 15, 2018

Attest: Maribel Seijo  
City Clerk

**SYNOPSIS:** This Resolution respectfully requests that the Administration launch a Senior Identification Program, to include the establishment of a database of information on senior residents in Wilmington to ensure they are informed about real estate tax exemptions and rate/fee waivers, as well as other programs and promotions designed to assist seniors. Such a database would also assist the City for emergency purposes, and in ensuring that the budget adequately accounts for possible tax exemptions and fee waivers.