



# City of Wilmington

Loretta Walsh  
City Council Member At-Large

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## **Public Safety Committee**

Loretta Walsh, Chair  
Christofer C. Johnson, Vice Chair  
Ciro Adams  
Charles M. "Bud" Freel  
Michelle Harlee  
Yolanda McCoy  
Dr. Hanifa Shabazz, Ex-Officio Member

## **REVISED NOTICE**

### **Public Safety Committee Meeting**

**October 14, 2019**

**5:00 p.m.**

**1<sup>st</sup> Floor Council Committee Room**

### **Agenda**

- A Resolution Approving the Wilmington Police Department's Grant Application to the U.S. Department of Justice's ("DOJ") Justice Assistant Grant ("JAG") to Obtain Funding to Implement an Anti-Violence Initiative and a Cold Case Investigator Position
- A Resolution Approving the Wilmington Police Department's Grant Application to the Department of Safety and Homeland Security for Violent Crime Overtime Funds
- A Resolution Approving the Wilmington Police Department's Grant Application to the Delaware Department of Justice for Special Law Enforcement Assistance Funds to be Used to Obtain Upgraded Hostage Negotiation Equipment
- A Resolution Regarding the Wilmington Police Department Commencing a Police Academy Class
- A Resolution Supporting a Person of Color for Chief Justice Appointment

Rev.2 (10/11/19) \* Note: Item removed

*If public comment is permitted during this committee meeting, any member of the public who wishes to speak during the committee meeting will be limited to three minutes per agenda item. If the public's permission to comment is abused, the Chair may exercise greater discretion in limiting public comment*

Wilmington, Delaware  
November 7, 2019

#xxxx

**Sponsor:**

**Council  
Member  
Walsh**

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to Section 2-363 of the City Code, the Council deemed it necessary and proper to specify the requirements for review and approval of City-sponsored grant applications and proposals, including authorization for expedited grant applications when necessary prior to Council's approval by resolution; and

**WHEREAS**, the City, through the Wilmington Police Department ("WPD"), applied for the United States Department of Justice's ("DOJ") Justice Assistance Grant ("JAG") in the amount of \$215,521; and

**WHEREAS**, the JAG program provides states and local governments with critical funding necessary to support a range of program areas including law enforcement, prosecution, crime prevention, and related law enforcement and corrections programs; and

**WHEREAS**, the Wilmington Police Department proposes to utilize the JAG grant funding to subsidize two separate projects, each of which will help address violent crime trends the City is experiencing as well as cold case investigations; and

**WHEREAS**, the first program WPD seeks to fund is for an overtime Anti-Violence Initiative. This Anti-Violence Initiative would address current crime trends against persons and property within the City of Wilmington including, but not limited to, homicide, rape, robbery, burglary, and theft-related crimes. In addition, the Anti-Violence Initiative would help identify dangerous criminals and disrupt criminal enterprises, operations, and activities. This initiative would be implemented in a plain-clothes and uniformed fashion; and

**WHEREAS**, the second program identified by WPD as a priority is a civilian Cold Case Investigator for the Criminal Investigations Division. WPD proposes to maintain a civilian

position within the department that would review the evidence of thousands of crime incidents investigated within the City of Wilmington. Evidence of crimes such as homicide, sexual assault, robbery, kidnapping, and other violent crimes would be researched for any available DNA evidence. This request is a continuation of a program which began with a FY09 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant. The position has been effective and is an asset to the WPD Criminal Investigations Division; and

**WHEREAS**, the Council deems it necessary and proper to authorize the grant application, for the aforesaid purpose.

**BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WILMINGTON** that the WPD's grant application to the DOJ in the amount of \$215,521 is hereby authorized.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Chief of the Wilmington Police Department, or his designee, shall be authorized to take all necessary actions to accept any and all funds associated with the grant application and to fulfill the grant requirements.

Passed by City Council,

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk

**SYNOPSIS:** This resolution authorizes the Wilmington Police Department's application for a grant from the U.S. Department of Justice in the amount of \$215,521. The grant will enable the Wilmington Police Department to implement an Anti-Violence Initiative and to fund a Cold Case Investigator position within the Department.

**FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT:** There is no negative fiscal impact on the City as no local matching funds are required.

Wilmington, Delaware  
November 7, 2019

#xxxx

**Sponsor:**

**Council  
Member  
Walsh**

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to Section 2-363 of the City Code, the Council deemed it necessary and proper to specify the requirements for review and approval of City-sponsored grant applications and proposals, including authorization for expedited grant applications when necessary prior to Council's approval by resolution; and

**WHEREAS**, the City, through the Wilmington Police Department ("WPD"), applied for a grant from the Fund to Combat Violent Crimes ("FCVC"), administered by the Delaware Department of Safety and Homeland Security ("DSHS"), in the amount of \$403,608.20; and

**WHEREAS**, although the corporate limits of the City of Wilmington are only 12 square miles in size, the Wilmington Police Department is tasked with combating an active crime rate in this compact area; and

**WHEREAS**, like many jurisdictions, the Wilmington Police Department has experienced a decrease in authorized strength; and

**WHEREAS**, the Wilmington Police Department current authorized strength is 315 positions, dropping from a high of 342; and

**WHEREAS**, only 281 of the 315 authorized Wilmington Police Department positions are currently staffed; and

**WHEREAS**, the Wilmington Police Department proposes to use funds received from the Fund to Combat Violent Crime for an overtime program; and

**WHEREAS**, the overtime program will focus on intelligence-driven data of violent crimes generated from a weekly CompStat meeting; and

**WHEREAS**, a properly-funded overtime program will ensure that overtime assignments will target areas that are actively experiencing violent crime trends; and

**WHEREAS**, the overtime program will consist of directed patrols, walking assignments, tactical response initiatives, and plain clothes operations in the identified areas.

**WHEREAS**, the Council deems it necessary and proper to authorize the grant application, for the aforesaid purpose.

**BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WILMINGTON** that the WPD's grant application to the DSHS in the amount of \$403,608.20 is hereby authorized.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Chief of the Wilmington Police Department, or his designee, shall be authorized to take all necessary actions to accept any and all funds associated with the grant application and to fulfill the grant requirements.

Passed by City Council,

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk

**SYNOPSIS:** This resolution authorizes the Wilmington Police Department's application for a grant from the Delaware Department of Safety and Homeland Security in the amount of \$403,608.20. The grant will enable the Wilmington Police Department to implement fund an overtime program which will deploy Officers and resources to combat violent crime in areas identified by intelligence-driven data.

**FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT:** There is no negative fiscal impact on the City as no local matching funds are required.

Wilmington, Delaware  
November 7, 2019

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**Sponsor:**

**Council  
Member  
Walsh**

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to Section 2-363 of the City Code, the Council deemed it necessary and proper to specify the requirements for review and approval of City-sponsored grant applications and proposals, including authorization for expedited grant applications when necessary prior to Council's approval by resolution; and

**WHEREAS**, the City, through the Wilmington Police Department, applied for a grant in the amount of \$30,000 from Delaware Department of Justice for funding from the Special Law Enforcement Assistance Fund; and

**WHEREAS**, the Wilmington Police Department Crisis Management Hostage Negotiation Team utilizes a Mobile Command Center; and

**WHEREAS**, the Mobile Command Center houses equipment designed to establish communications with subjects in crisis; and

**WHEREAS**, the current 'throw-phone' command console, equipment which provides a link between the Negotiation Team and the subject in crisis, has degraded functionality and recently experienced a catastrophic failure; and

**WHEREAS**, the Wilmington Police Department seeks to upgrade to a wireless version of the command console which would eliminate issues associated with corded connections; and

**WHEREAS**, no matching funds are required; and

**WHEREAS**, the Council deems it necessary and proper to authorize the grant application, for the aforesaid purpose.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WILMINGTON** that the Wilmington Police Department's grant application to the Delaware Department of Justice in the amount of \$30,000 is hereby authorized.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Chief of Police, or his designee, shall be authorized to take all necessary actions to accept any and all funds associated with the grant application and to fulfill the grant requirements.

Passed by City Council,

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk

**SYNOPSIS:** This Resolution authorizes the Wilmington Police Department's application for a grant from Delaware Department of Justice for funding from the Special Law Enforcement Assistance Fund in the amount of \$30,000. The funds will be used to purchase equipment upgrades for the Crisis Management Hostage Negotiation Team. No local matching funds are required.

**FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT:** There is no negative fiscal impact on the City, because no local matching funds are required by the grant.

Wilmington, Delaware  
November 7, 2019

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**Sponsor:**

**Council  
Member  
Walsh**

**WHEREAS**, City Council enacted City Code Section 2-232 establishing procedures for the Chief of the Wilmington Police Department to call for the commencement of an academy class if the manpower of the Police Department falls below ninety-five (95) percent of the number of police officers set forth in the position allocation list attached to the annual operating budget ordinance for the applicable fiscal year; and

**WHEREAS**, on May 21, 2019, the Council approved the annual operating budget ordinance for fiscal year 2020 (the “Budget Ordinance”); and

**WHEREAS**, the Chief of the Police Department has represented that it is anticipated, based upon normal attrition, that the manpower of the Police Department will fall below ninety-five percent of the number of police officers set forth in the position allocation list attached to Budget Ordinance by the end of 2019; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to City Code Section 2-232(b), the Chief of the Police Department has drafted a resolution calling for the commencement of an academy class for the Police Department once manpower falls below the requisite threshold, and presented it to Council for its review.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WILMINGTON** that the Council hereby recognizes that the Chief of the Police Department has represented that it is anticipated that the manpower of the Police Department will fall below ninety-five percent of the number of police officers set forth in the position allocation list attached to the Budget Ordinance by the end of 2019 and has drafted a



resolution calling for the commencement of academy class for the Police Department once manpower falls below the requisite threshold.

Passed by City Council,

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk

**SYNOPSIS:** In this Resolution, the City Council recognizes that the Chief of the Police Department has represented that it is anticipated that the manpower of the Police Department will fall below ninety-five percent of the number of police officers set forth in the position allocation list attached to the fiscal year 2020 annual operating budget ordinance by the end of 2019 and has drafted a resolution calling for the commencement of an academy class for the Police Department once manpower falls below the requisite threshold.

W0107678

Wilmington, Delaware  
October 17, 2019

**#XXXX**

**Sponsor:**

**Council  
Member  
Johnson**

**Co-Sponsor:**

**Council  
President  
Shabazz**

**WHEREAS**, the City of Wilmington is home to a diverse population of individuals representing different ages, abilities, nationalities, races, ethnicities, religions, gender identities, and sexual identities who all deserve accurate, considerate, and appropriate representation at the highest legal level; and

**WHEREAS**, the American Bar Association has confirmed that, “racial and ethnic diversity in the legal profession is necessary to demonstrate that our laws are being made and administered for the benefit of all persons. Because the public’s perception of the legal profession often informs impressions of the legal system, a diverse bar and bench create greater trust in the rule of law,” and has thus identified enhancing diversity and inclusion as one of its primary goals; and

**WHEREAS**, the Brennan Center for Justice at NYU Law reports that State Supreme Courts don’t have gender parity or reflect the racial or ethnic composition of the communities they serve, becoming, over the past twenty years, even less reflective of the nation’s increasingly diverse population; and

**WHEREAS**, a diverse court strengthens the rule of law by bringing essential knowledge and perspectives to the bench that better represent and reflect the true diversity of Cities such as Wilmington and states such as Delaware, thereby enhancing the Court’s legitimacy, and further upholding our nation’s values of equity and equality of opportunity; and

**WHEREAS**, the minority population of Delaware is approximately 38 percent, and the minority population of the City of Wilmington is 67 percent and is becoming increasingly more diverse; and

**WHEREAS**, 24 states, including Delaware, currently lack a Justice of Color on their State Supreme Court bench, and the Delaware Supreme Court has never included a person of color as an Associate Justice, or a person of color or woman as the Chief Justice; and

**WHEREAS**, the State of Delaware, having never appointed a Chief Justice of color, or a female Chief Justice, though 2 women have been appointed as Associate Justices since 1994, which thereby maintains an unrepresentative 80 percent majority of White men on the Delaware State Supreme Court bench, despite White men now comprising less than a third of the U.S. population, as well as less than half of the Wilmington population; and

**WHEREAS**, people of color make up nearly 40 percent of the U.S. population but hold only 15 percent of State Supreme Court seats and women make up roughly half the U.S. population but hold only 36 percent of State Supreme Court seats, and

**WHEREAS**, the Multicultural Judges & Lawyers Section of the Delaware State Bar Association, the South Asian Bar Association of Delaware, the Delaware Hispanic Bar Association, and the Delaware Barristers Association have encouraged the appointment of a person of color to the Delaware Supreme Court; and

**WHEREAS**, a transparent, safe, and secure Wilmington remains a priority of the Wilmington City Council, as well as a commitment of ensuring that all the people of Wilmington and Delaware are well-represented.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WILMINGTON** that the Honorable John Carney, Governor of the State of Delaware, is

hereby strongly encouraged to consider the appointment of a person of color to the Delaware Supreme Court demonstrating equity, inclusion and recognition of the diversity of Delaware's overall population and that of the legal profession in the State.

Passed by City Council,

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk

**SYNOPSIS:** The Wilmington City Council is concerned with the lack of diversity within the Delaware State Supreme Court. Despite the continued growth of a diverse population within the State and especially within the City of Wilmington, the largest City in Delaware, the Delaware Supreme Court, like many other State Supreme Courts around the country, has not accurately represented its citizenry through its appointment of Supreme Court Justices. Therefore, the Council of the City of Wilmington strongly encourages Governor Carney to appoint a Person of Color to the Delaware State Supreme Court to demonstrate equity, inclusion and recognition of the diversity of the overall population of our City, State and the Delaware legal profession.