

Wilmington, Delaware
September 19, 2019

#4708

Sponsor:

Council
Member
McCoy

WHEREAS, the City of Wilmington is, and has been home to thousands of individuals of different nationalities, ethnicities, religions and sexual orientations, who have developed the economic, cultural, civic and physical environment of this vibrant and largest City in the Diamond state of Delaware; and

WHEREAS, Wilmington has a rich legacy of honoring and celebrating the many different groups of people who represent our City, with longstanding festivals such as St. Anthony's Italian Festival, the People's Festival 4Peace Tribute to Bob Marley, the Indo-American India Fest, the August Quarterly Religious Festival, the St. Hedwig Polish Festival, the Wilmington Hispanic Festival and the Wilmington Greek Festival; and

WHEREAS, a Safe Community is defined as a community that limits its cooperation with federal immigration enforcement agents in order to protect immigrants from deportation and ensuring that all residents receive City services regardless of immigration status; and

WHEREAS, the cooperation of all individuals, both those here legally and those without documentation, is essential to achieving the City's goals of protecting and enhancing the quality of life of residents and visitors; and

WHEREAS, it is fundamental to the values of our City that all people have equal access to City services, regardless of their citizenship or immigration status; and

WHEREAS, in order to maintain trust between the City and all its residents, Wilmington seeks to protect the safety, civil, and human rights of all residents, regardless of race, sexual orientation, religion, ethnicity and immigration status; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WILMINGTON that the Administration is hereby encouraged to consider, where necessary, the following revisions in current policy in order to ensure equitable treatment among all City residents:

Section 1: Protection of Residents' Personal Information. It shall be the policy of all City of Wilmington departments, agencies and commissions not to provide non-publicly available information about an individual to any entity or official, including, but not limited to, any state or federal government agency or official, unless necessary to perform department, agency or commission duties or such actions required by law.

Section 2: Restriction on Use of City Resources. It shall be the policy of all City of Wilmington departments, agencies and commissions not to identify, investigate or detain any person solely on the basis of a suspected violation of immigration law.

Section 3: Implementation and Training of Law Enforcement. The Wilmington Police Department is encouraged to review and where necessary revise their policies regarding immigrants to reflect the values of the City of Wilmington to be welcoming of all persons, regardless of immigrant status. Other City of Wilmington departments are also encouraged to review their policies to ensure compliance to these values.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Wilmington City Council values all of the principles of our Democracy and this country's heritage of being a nation of immigrants. Therefore, the purpose of this Resolution is to strongly encourage the Administration to consider making the above policy and operational changes so that all residents, regardless of immigration status, national and ethnic origins, race, religion or sexual orientation have equal access to City services, feel welcome, protected and valued in our great City of Wilmington.

Passed by City Council,

Attest: _____
City Clerk

SYNOPSIS: The purpose of this Resolution is to strongly encourage the Administration to revise any current policies and operations that may not reflect the City's values of inclusivity regarding Wilmington's rich multi-ethnic heritage by making certain that Wilmington is a Safe Community for all its residents.