



City of Wilmington

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City Council Member, 4th District

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Education, Youth & Families Committee

Michelle Harlee, Chair
Linda M. Gray, Vice Chair
Ernest "Trippi" Congo, II
Charles M. "Bud" Freel
Yolanda McCoy
Va'Shun "Vash" Turner
Dr. Hanifa Shabazz, Ex-Officio Member

➤ **REVISED NOTICE**

Education, Youth & Families Committee Meeting

Wednesday, March 11, 2020

5:00 p.m.

1st Floor Council Committee Room

Agenda

- Presentation on "Closing the FY 2020 Funding Gap for the Freedom School" by Mr. Henry Smith
- Presentation on the Fresh Start Scholarship Program by Ms. Whetzel
- Presentation on the Wilmington Library by Mr. Shaw
- A Resolution Encouraging the United States Senate and the United States House of Representatives to Encourage that the National Basketball Association (NBA) Retire Number 24 in Honor of the Outstanding and Historical Contributions made to Professional Basketball by the Late Kobe Bryant of the Los Angeles Lakers
- Presentation on Wilmington City Council's Strategic Plan Update Process by Raheemah Jabbar-Bey, Strategic and Policy Director, Wilmington City Council
- A Resolution to Encourage The Delaware General Assembly to Enforce Initiatives Making it Possible for All Qualifying Delaware High School Students to Register to Vote at School

Rev. 1 (3/010/2020)

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
March 19, 2020

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Sponsor:

Council
Member
Turner

WHEREAS, Wilmington City Council pays tribute to the life and legacy of a distinguished athletic living legend, who devoted himself to his family, his community and his only professional team, the Los Angeles Lakers; and

WHEREAS, it is with profound sorrow that we pen this Resolution of sympathy and support to the family of Kobe Bryant, his daughter Gianna and the families and friends of the seven additional friends of the Bryants', who lost their lives in a devastating accident on January 26, 2020 in Calabasas, California; and

WHEREAS, Kobe Bryant, son of former NBA player Joe Bryant, was one of the most prolific players to ever grace the hardwood, and his influence on the sport will surely be remembered for many years to come; he is widely regarded as one of the greatest players in the history of the sport, currently sitting fourth all-time in points, eighth all-time in minutes played, fifteenth all-time in games played, and seventeenth all-time in steals; and

WHEREAS, he had a stellar high school career at Lower Merion High School in Ardmore, Pennsylvania, where he was a varsity player all four years; he ended his high school career as Southeastern Pennsylvania's all-time leading scorer with 2,883 points. As a senior, he averaged 30.8 points, 12 rebounds, 6.5 assists, 4 steals, and 3.8 blocks to bring the school its first state championship in fifty-three years; his play earned him numerous honors even before he began his professional career, including being named Naismith High School Player of the Year, Gatorade Men's National Basketball Player of the Year, and a McDonald's All American; and

WHEREAS, drafted with the thirteenth pick of the 1996 NBA Draft by the Charlotte Hornets, he was the sixth player in league history to forgo a college basketball career in favor of declaring for the NBA draft out of high school; he was traded to the Lakers without ever having played a game for the Hornets and would go on to win the 1997 Slam Dunk Contest during his rookie year, placing him firmly on fans' radars, where he would stay for the remainder of his estimable career; and

WHEREAS, over the course of his twenty-year career in the NBA, Mr. Bryant averaged 25 points, 5.2 rebounds, 4.7 assists, and 1.5 steals per game and led the league in scoring on two occasions; he was a five-time NBA champion, winning three of his five titles consecutively with the help of fellow basketball legend Shaquille "Shaq" O'Neil and earning his two Finals MVP Awards in the years after Shaq's departure from the team; and

WHEREAS, he is one of the most acclaimed players in league history, having received the Most Valuable Player award in 2008, a record eighteen consecutive All-Star selections, and the All-Star Game MVP four times; he made fifteen All-NBA Teams, including eleven First Team selections, and twelve All-Defensive Teams, including nine First Team selections, and was named to the All-Rookie team during the 1996-1997 season; and

WHEREAS, his many achievements on the basketball court aside, Mr. Bryant was a talented musician, director, author, and entrepreneur; he was the first African American to win the Academy Award for Best Animated Short Film for his film Dear Basketball and his book, The Mamba Mentality: How I Play, is highly lauded by those involved in the sport of basketball; and

WHEREAS, his company, Kobe Inc., works to own and grow brands in the sports industry, including providing the initial investment for Bodyarmor SuperDrink; he launched Bryant-Stibel, a venture capital firm, with his business partner Jeff Stibel; and

WHEREAS, his philanthropic endeavors include the Kobe Bryant China Fund, an organization that raises money for education and health programs in China, and service as the official ambassador for After-School All-Stars, a nonprofit organization that provides comprehensive after-school programs to children in thirteen U.S. cities; in 2010, he appeared alongside Zach Braff to present a \$1 million check to the Call of Duty Endowment, which aids veterans in transitioning to civilian life; and

WHEREAS, his commitment to the game of basketball was matched only by his commitment to his family; he was a loving husband to his wife, Vanessa, and was wholly

devoted to their daughters, making time to attend their sporting events and school activities even on days when he had team practices or other professional obligations; and

WHEREAS, Gianna Bryant, Kobe Bryant's thirteen-year-old daughter, also passed in the accident; she enjoyed playing basketball, a fact which deeply bonded her and her father, and she was grateful for his involvement in her life both on and off the court; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that we should pause to remember the bountiful life of Kobe Bryant, an exceptional athlete, public servant, and human being.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WILMINGTON that we honor the memory of Kobe Bean Bryant and Gianna Bryant, reflecting fondly upon their impeccable character and stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction. We offer our condolences to the Bryant family during this difficult time.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Council encourages the United States Senate and the United States House of Representatives and to align with Los Angeles Lakers fans, basketball fans, sports fans, #GirlDads and people worldwide, who loved and admired Kobe Bryant and wish to pay homage to his many notable contributions to the NBA and to American sports throughout his professional career with the Los Angeles Lakers.

Passed by City Council,

ATTEST: _____
City Clerk

SYNOPSIS: This Resolution asks the United States Senate and the United States House of Representatives to encourage that the National Basketball Association (NBA) retire number 24 in honor of the outstanding and historical contributions made to professional basketball by the late Kobe Bryant of the Los Angeles Lakers.

Wilmington, Delaware
March 19, 2020

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WHEREAS, about 50.8 million students attend public schools, according to the National Center for Education Statistics; and

Sponsor:

**Council
Member
Dixon**

WHEREAS, voting in local, state and federal elections is a core right, an obligation of citizenship and a primary vehicle to ensure the United States remains a government by and for the people; and

Co-Sponsor:

**Council
Member
Harlee**

WHEREAS, in 1971, the 26th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution was adopted, lowering the voting age to 18; and

WHEREAS, according to the Center for Information and Research on Civic Learning and Engagement, 16.9 million youth voters became eligible in 2016 to vote in their first presidential election; and

WHEREAS, data from Pew Research Center indicates that people between the ages of 18 and 35 are now as large a political force as the Baby Boomer generation, comprising more than 31 percent of the overall electorate; and

WHEREAS, voter turnout in the 2016 presidential election dipped to its lowest point in two decades with only about 53 percent of voting-age citizens participating; and

WHEREAS, as a result of the enactment of the National Voter Rights Act of 1993, any U.S. citizen residing in the State of Delaware, who meets the eligibility requirements, is afforded the opportunity to register to vote while obtaining or renewing a driver license. The Delaware Department of Elections and Department of Motor Vehicles capture a portion of 16- and 17-year-old voting pre-registrations and 18-year-old voter registrations through their State ID Voter Registration Program. Approximately 600 16- and 17-year-old Delawareans enroll in this program monthly. However, according to the State's data, only 500 of 8,900 of the State's current queue of citizens who are pre-registered to be automatically registered upon reaching the required age requirement are Wilmingtonians; and

WHEREAS, while organizations such as the Delaware League of Women Voters are widely credited with providing voter education, pre-registration and registration services to teens in Delaware’s schools, there is no mandate requiring school districts to ensure that all students statewide have access to these services through the school where they are enrolled; and

WHEREAS, the lack of participation in the electoral process deprives individuals and communities of agency, voice and representation; and

WHEREAS, as a partner in the struggle for educational justice and increased civil participation across the state of Delaware and the United States of America, Wilmington City Council has the responsibility to educate and empower students and citizens.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WILMINGTON, that we strongly encourage the Delaware General Assembly to embark on an ongoing voter registration drive for eligible high school students and others eligible to vote, wherein Delaware School Districts are the leading educational agency in their duty to address voter registration opportunities as a part of an eligible student’s transition to adult, civic life.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Wilmington City Council will seek to work with our community and civil rights partners to increase voter education, registration and participation, and will educate, assist and empower those who, though ineligible to vote, need to understand their individual rights as well as the roles and responsibilities of active citizen engagement.

Passed by City Council,

ATTEST: _____
City Clerk

SYNOPSIS: This Resolution encourages the Delaware General Assembly to develop and enforce processes by which Delaware public and charter schools would offer voter pre-registration and registration to eligible high school students via partnerships between school districts, municipalities and advocacy organizations.