



City of Wilmington

Wilmington City Council

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COVID-19 Committee

Christofer C. Johnson, Chair

Charles "Bud" Freel

Zanthia Oliver

Michelle H. Harlee

Dr. Hanifa Shabazz, Ex-Officio Member

NOTICE

VIRTUAL COVID-19 Committee Meeting

May 26, 2020 at 5:00 P.M

Agenda

- Update on Federal Stimulus Funding & CARES Funds to the City of Wilmington
- Update on City's Community Pools (Pertaining to the Governor's Latest Re-openings)
- Review Resolution to Support HR#6585 Encouraging the United States Congress to Vote for the Equitable Data Collection and Disclosure on COVID-19 Act
- Review Resolution Supporting Governor Carney's Absentee Ballot Modifications for the State of Delaware

May 26, 2020 at 5:00 p.m. COVID-19 Committee Meeting

The public can access the meeting by clicking the following link:

<https://zoom.us/j/92135162395>

Webinar ID: 921 3516 2395

Or by Telephone by dialing: (929) 205-6099 or (301) 715-8592

You will be asked for the Webinar ID. Please enter **921 3516 2395** and then #. You can press # again when prompted to immediately enter the meeting.

(05/19/2020)

DRAFT

Wilmington, Delaware
June 4, 2020

#XXXX

Sponsor:

**President
Shabazz**

Co-Sponsor:

**Council
Member
Johnson**

WHEREAS, the Equitable Data Collection and Disclosure on COVID–19 Act, sponsored by United States Representative Robin L. Kelly of Illinois, require the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to collect and report certain data concerning COVID–19; and

WHEREAS, as stated in the Bill, the World Health Organization (WHO) declared COVID–19 a “Public Health Emergency of International Concern” on January 30, 2020. In the United States, cases of COVID–19 have quickly surpassed those across the world, and as of April 12, 2020, over 500,000 cases and 20,000 deaths have been reported in the United States alone; and

WHEREAS, the burden of morbidity and mortality in the United States has historically fallen disproportionately on marginalized communities. That is to say that historically, structures and systems, such as racism, ableism and class oppression, have rendered affected individuals more vulnerable to inequities and have prevented people from achieving their optimal health even when there is not a crisis of pandemic proportions; and

WHEREAS, communities of color experience higher rates of chronic disease and disabilities, such as diabetes, hypertension, and asthma, than non-Hispanic White communities, which predisposes them to greater risk of complications and mortality should they contract COVID–19; and

WHEREAS, communities of color are more likely to generally suffer as a result of lack of access to adequate healthcare, these communities are experiencing alarmingly higher incidences of COVID-19, nationwide and in the State of Delaware, than the majority population; and

WHEREAS, to illustrate this point, in the State of Delaware, according to the State website, <https://myhealthycommunity.dhss.delaware.gov/locations/state>, while Hispanic/Latino and Non-Hispanic/Black Delawareans constitute but a small fraction of the

state population, however, the incidence of positive incidents within those communities far surpasses those incidents among Non-Hispanic/White Delawareans; and

WHEREAS, the Equitable Data Collection and Disclosure on COVID-19 Act emphasizes that, without clear understanding of how COVID-19 impacts marginalized racial and ethnic communities, there will be exacerbated risk of endangering the most historically vulnerable of our Nation, and for that reason, Emergency Funding for Federal Data Collection on the Racial, Ethnic, and Other Demographic Disparities or COVID-19, has been recommended and should be considered by the United States Congress; and

WHEREAS, such Emergency Funding would make it possible for state and local agencies to conduct or support data collection on the racial, ethnic, and other demographic implications of COVID-19 in the United States and its territories, including support to assist in the capacity building for State and local public health departments to collect and transmit racial, ethnic, and other demographic data to the relevant Department of Health and Human Services agencies; and

WHEREAS, The City of Wilmington, Delaware is not only the largest city in the State of Delaware, but a City with over 50% of its permanent residents self-identifying as Black, Hispanic and as low-to-moderate income households. The operational shortfalls we will experience by virtue COVID-19 will have real, and possibly long-lasting effects on our City, and the resources afforded to our State agencies to do thorough data collection will be key to our efforts to address public health emergencies caused by COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, by raising our voices, Members of the 107th Session of the City Council of the City of Wilmington, Delaware raise our voices, along with leaders of municipalities across the country. We ask that you support H.R. 6585 and that you encourage your colleagues in Washington to do the same.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WILMINGTON we ask that the United States Congress vote to pass the **EQUITABLE DATA COLLECTION AND DISCLOSURE ON COVID-19 ACT**, which requires that

data collection on racial, ethnic and other demographic implications of COVID-19 in the United States, including support to assist in the capacity building for state and local public health departments to collect and transmit racial, ethnic and other demographic data to the relevant department of health and human services agencies.

Passed by City Council,

ATTEST: _____
City Clerk

SYNOPSIS: This Resolution ask that the United States Congress vote to pass the Equitable Data Collection and Disclosure on COVID-19 ACT, which requires that data collection on racial, ethnic and other demographic implications of COVID-19 in the United States, including support to assist in the capacity building for state and local public health departments to collect and transmit racial, ethnic and other demographic data to the relevant department of health and human services agencies.

Wilmington, Delaware
June 4, 2020

#XXXX

Sponsor:

Council
Member
Gray

WHEREAS, COVID-19 is caused by a coronavirus called SARS-CoV-2; and,

WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reports that “older adults and people who have severe underlying medical conditions like heart or lung disease or diabetes seem to be at higher risk for developing more serious complications from COVID-19 illness;” and,

WHEREAS, the CDC has additionally updated the public information that “spread is more likely when people are in close contact with one another (within about 6 feet),” that “it may be possible that a person can get COVID-19 by touching a surface or object that has the virus on it and then touching their own mouth, nose, or possibly their eyes,” and that “the virus that causes COVID-19 is spreading very easily and sustainably between people;” and,

WHEREAS, the State of Delaware entered a State of Emergency on 13 March 2020, by order of Governor John Carney, due to the dangers surrounding the novel coronavirus, hereafter referred to as COVID-19; and,

WHEREAS, the State of Emergency due to the public health threat of COVID-19 became effective as of 8:00 a.m. E.D.T. on March 13, 2020 (the “COVID-19 State of Emergency”); and

WHEREAS, the Governor has issued 15 modifications of this State of Emergency, the most recent being issued on May 7, 2020 and seeking to provide additional protections for renters in the State of Delaware; and,

WHEREAS, concerns over protecting Democracy in the State and Nation are as pressing as protecting the financial wellbeing of its citizens; and,

WHEREAS, the year 2020 is an important election year, culminating in the election of the President of the United States of America; and,

WHEREAS, the CDC and Delaware Department of Health reported 5,288 confirmed cases and 183 confirmed deaths in the State of Delaware as of May 6,

WHEREAS, the Delaware Department of Health reports 1,716 recoveries, leaving at least 3,390 of 973,764 (0.03% of the population) individuals currently with a confirmed inability to exercise their democratic rights to vote, and;

WHEREAS, the CDC and Johns Hopkins University have reported an exponential spread of COVID-19 across the United States of America; and,

WHEREAS, due to the conditions of this public health emergency, on March 25, 2020, 8:00 a.m. EDT, the Office of the Governor released, and Governor Carney signed into effect, the following modification to the State of Emergency:

1. The Delaware presidential primary election scheduled to be conducted on April 28, 2020 pursuant to 15 Del. C. § 3181 is hereby cancelled and rescheduled to June 2, 2020.
2. All elections for school board members in any Delaware school district scheduled to be conducted on May 12, 2020 pursuant to 14 Del. C. § 1072(c) are hereby delayed until June 16, 2020.
3. To the extent not already canceled by its board of education, any referendum election in a Delaware school district, scheduled before May 15, 2020, and to be conducted pursuant to the requirements of 14 Del. C. Chapters 10, 19, 20 or 21, is hereby cancelled and shall be rescheduled by the school district's board of education no earlier than July 21, 2020.

4. To the extent not already canceled by a municipality by written notification to the State Election Commissioner pursuant to 15 Del. C. § 7550(h), all municipal elections scheduled to be conducted between date of this Order and May 15, 2020, pursuant to a municipality's charter or municipal code, are hereby cancelled and shall be rescheduled by the municipality no earlier than May 15, 2020 in accordance with 15 Del. C. §7553, and the term of any existing officeholder shall continue until the results of the rescheduled election are certified pursuant to 15 Del. C. § 7558.
5. Until this Order is rescinded and for purposes of qualification of an otherwise duly registered voter to vote by absentee ballot pursuant to 14 Del. C. § 1086, 15 Del. C. § 5502, or 15 Del. C. § 7571, as applicable, in the State's 2020 presidential primary, or in any other upcoming State primary election, special election for statewide or local offices, the qualification of "sick or physically disabled" as used in 15 Del. C. §§ 5502(4) and 7571 shall apply to and include any such voter who is asymptomatic of COVID-19 infection and otherwise abiding by CDC and DPH guidelines by exercising self-quarantine or social distancing to avoid potential exposure to (and community spread of) COVID-19, and who herself or himself freely chooses to use such qualification to vote by absentee ballot.
6. In order to provide the Department of Elections sufficient time and resources to process the anticipated significant increase in the volume of absentee voting resulting from the shelter in place and social distancing requirements mandated by my State of Emergency, the earliest time the Department may begin the

processing of such absentee ballots as set forth in 15 Del. C. § 5510 is hereby extended from the Friday before the day of the election to 10 calendar days before such election.

WHEREAS on 7 May 2020, the Office of the Governor released the Fifteenth modification to the Order, amending changes pursuant to the Elections in the State of Delaware in the following manner:

1. Effective immediately, the Delaware presidential primary election, originally scheduled to be conducted on April 28, 2020 pursuant to 15 Del. C. § 3181 and rescheduled to June 2, 2020 pursuant to the Sixth Modification of the COVID-19 State of Emergency declaration, **is hereby further rescheduled to July 7, 2020.** The *Department of Elections shall mail absentee ballot applications to all registered Democrats and Republicans in the State of Delaware, in order to provide all such registered voters the opportunity to vote by absentee ballot in the presidential primary election and, pursuant to the Sixth Modification, the ability to select the “sick or physically disabled” reason if a voter is asymptomatic of COVID-19 infection and otherwise abiding by CDC and DPH guidelines by exercising self-quarantine or social distancing to avoid potential exposure to (and community spread of) COVID-19, and who herself or himself freely chooses to use such qualification to vote by absentee ballot.* In addition to mailing absentee ballot applications to all registered Democrats and Republicans in the State of Delaware, **the Department of Elections shall set up and operate a reduced number of polling places on the election day. There shall be at least six (6) such polling places in each county to allow voters to vote in person should they choose not to vote by absentee**

ballot. Department of Elections is encouraged to implement social distancing requirements, require all persons age 13 and older to wear a face covering at all times, and enforce crowd limitations of 10 persons at a time at polling places.

2. All elections for school board members in any Delaware school district scheduled to be conducted on May 12, 2020 pursuant to 14 Del. C. § 1072(c) and, pursuant to the Sixth Modification to the COVID-19 State of Emergency declaration, delayed until June 16, 2020, are hereby further rescheduled for July 21, 2020. The terms of current school board members currently ending on June 30, 2020 are hereby extended to and through July 31, 2020. The term of any board member elected in the July 21, 2020 election shall commence on August 1, 2020, and the end of such term shall be governed by 14 Del. C. § 1052(d) and shall not be affected by this Modification. Districts are required to implement social distancing requirements, require all persons age 13 and older to wear a face covering at all times, and enforce crowd limitations of 10 persons at a time at polling places.
3. Notwithstanding the Sixth and Ninth Modifications to the COVID-19 State of Emergency declaration, municipal elections scheduled to be conducted pursuant to a municipality's charter or municipal code after the date of this Order but prior to the rescission of the State of Emergency may be conducted at the discretion of the municipality. Municipalities conducting such elections are required to implement social distancing requirements, to enforce the requirement that all persons age 13 and older wear a face covering at all times, and to enforce crowd limitations of 10 persons at a time at polling places. Municipalities are also encouraged to mail absentee ballot applications to all eligible voters in the municipality and to reduce the number of

physical polling places on election day. Municipalities may also consider extending voting hours to reduce crowd size at the polling places.

4. In order to provide the Department of Elections sufficient time and resources to process the anticipated significant increase in the volume of absentee voting resulting from the shelter in place and social distancing requirements mandated by the State of Emergency and the requirement in this Modification to mail absentee ballot applications to all registered voters in the Democratic and Republican parties, the earliest time the Department may begin the processing of such absentee ballots as set forth in 15 Del. C. § 5510 is hereby further extended from 10 calendar days before the day of the election to 30 calendar days before such election.

WHEREAS, as of May 25, the Delaware Department of Public Health reports 4,802 recoveries in the State of Delaware, 335 Deaths, 45,848 tested Negative and 9,006 tested positive, increasing the number of Delawareans who could utilize Absentee Ballots, if they opt to do so to approximately an additional 1,300 people, totaling 4,690.

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF WILMINGTON that this Council supports the Governor's Order, as well as the modifications to the criteria for requesting an absentee ballot by having the Department of Elections mail absentee ballot applications to every registered Democrat and Republican voter. In these uncertain times, when many citizens of the City of Wilmington face several traumatic changes to their lives due to the COVID-19 pandemic relevant to population density, food insecurity, income losses due to layoffs and business closings, housing insecurity, difficulties in meeting rental and/or mortgage payments, and now concerns related to their ability and right to vote. The Council appreciates the Governor's Order

expanding the eligibility requirements for voters to obtain an absentee ballot and having absentee ballot applications mailed to every registered Democrat and Republican in the State of Delaware thereby ensuring that all voters in our City of Wilmington and throughout the state will have the ability to choose how to exercise their democratic right to vote in the upcoming elections by choosing to do so through an absentee ballot which is in keeping with the Delaware Governor's Executive Order and CDC recommendations relevant to social distancing, not being in crowds of 10 or more and wearing face masks in order to protect oneself and others from the coronavirus.

Passed by City Council,

Attest: _____

City Clerk

Synopsis: The Wilmington City Council strongly supports Governor Carney's fifteenth modification to his March 2020 State of Emergency Order relating to COVID-19 that expands the eligibility requirements for obtaining an absentee ballot and having absentee ballot applications mailed by the Department of Elections to every registered Democrat and Republican voter in the State of Delaware thereby further supporting Delawareans democratic right to vote through choosing the option to use an absentee ballot in light of the social distancing practices in the Governor's State of Emergency Order and public health preventative practices recommended by the CDC and the Delaware Department of Public Health due to the COVID-19 pandemic.