

Wilmington, Delaware  
June 18, 2020

**#4835**

**WHEREAS**, the Delaware Legislative Black Caucus, heretofore referred to as the

**Sponsor:**

DLBC, announced and outlined on 10 June 2020 a “Justice for All” initiative intended to

**Council  
President  
Shabazz**

negate police brutality and enact racial justice in the State of Delaware; and

**WHEREAS**, this initiative includes eight primary goals, outlined as follows by

**Co-Sponsors:**

Delaware State News:

**Council  
Members  
Johnson  
Harlee  
Oliver  
Walsh**

1. Passage of Senate Bill 191, the first leg of an amendment to the Delaware Constitution that would explicitly make protection against discrimination on the basis of race, color and national origin a fundamental right.
2. Establishment of an African American Task Force entrusted with exploring the disparities experienced by people of color throughout Delaware and proposing remedies to address those inequities, including a commitment to significant, restorative investments in historically Black communities over the next five years.
3. Banning knee holds, choke holds and similar acts of applying force or pressure against the trachea, windpipe, carotid artery, or jugular vein unless deadly force is necessary.
4. Requiring that body camera devices be used by all law enforcement agencies in Delaware and mandating that those devices be activated from the beginning to the end of all interactions with suspects or witnesses.
5. Prohibiting Delaware law enforcement agencies from releasing mug shots or other photographs of juvenile defendants.

6. Requiring that all Delaware law enforcement agencies video record all interrogations of juvenile suspects and defendants except under certain circumstances.
7. Amending to the Delaware Law Enforcement Officers Bill of Rights to allow criminal defendants' legal counsel to receive internal affairs investigation records of law enforcement officers accused of wrongdoing.
8. Establishment of a Law Enforcement Accountability Task Force made up of a wide range of stakeholders, including police officers and impacted citizens, assigned with considering additional issues and proposals regarding the use of force, civil rights protections, transparency, and community policing.

**WHEREAS**, the State Senate, of the 150<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of the State of Delaware, has introduced Senate Bill No. 191, an Act proposing an amendment to Article I of the Delaware Constitution relating to Equal Rights; and

**WHEREAS**, this amendment would add race, color, and national origin to the protections listed within the Delaware State Constitution to explicitly declare that protection against discrimination based on race, color, and national origin as one of Delaware's fundamental rights; and

**WHEREAS**, this Act is considered the “first leg” of a constitutional amendment to add race, color, and national origin to the Article I, § 21 and is therefore the first step to realizing the Justice for All initiative in the State of Delaware; and

**WHEREAS**, these goals reflect those of the Wilmington City Council, a legislative body committed to a safe and secure Wilmington, a healthy Wilmington, a resident and visitor friendly Wilmington, and a transparent and well-represented Wilmington.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WILMINGTON** that we urge the Delaware General Assembly to pass by a 2/3 majority Senate Bill 191, **AN ACT PROPOSING AN AMENDMENT TO ARTICLE I OF THE DELAWARE CONSTITUTION RELATING TO EQUAL RIGHTS**, as proposed by the DLBC, in accordance with the Justice for All initiative in the State of Delaware, in order to best ensure protection under the Delaware State Constitutions on the basis of race, color, and national origin.

Passed by City Council,

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk

**SYNOPSIS:** The Council of the City of Wilmington urges members of the Delaware General Assembly to vote in favor of Senate Bill 191, an Act to establish Constitutional protections on the basis of race, color, and national origin in the State of Delaware. In addition, the Council asks that the Delaware General Assembly support the Delaware Legislative Black Caucus in their efforts to enact these 8 Justice For All actions in the State of Delaware.