

Wilmington, Delaware  
April 1, 2021

**#0045**

**WHEREAS**, the purpose of the Victims' Compensation Assistance Program (VCAP)

**Sponsor:**

is to alleviate some of the financial burden faced by victims, those that are directly related to the specific offense, by providing compensation for certain losses; and

**Council  
Member  
Oliver**

**WHEREAS**, the Victims' Compensation Assistance Program was started in 1988 to

**Co-Sponsors:**

help meet additional need incurred by victims of crime; and

**Council  
Members  
McCoy  
B. Fields  
Darby**

**WHEREAS**, the Victims' Compensation Assistance Program provides compensation for funeral and burial cost to loss of support for victims of violence, and temporary housing to personal safety property; and

**WHEREAS**, Chapter 90, Title 11 of Delaware Code has not been updated to reflect the increased costs of funeral and burial, since its inception; and

**WHEREAS**, Wilmington residents who are secondary victims of crime as defined by Chapter 90, Title 11 of Delaware Code have experienced additional burden in recent years; and

**WHEREAS**, current rules restrict access to VCAP funds for the commission of a crime, that is often unrelated to the victim's reasons for applying for VCAP funds and contributes to the financial burden of the victim; and

**WHEREAS**, the current amount of funeral and burial assistance is no more than \$5,000 total; and

**WHEREAS**, the average cost of funeral and burial are levied between \$7,000 and \$12,000 which is difficult for many low-income families to afford.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WILMINGTON** that the Delaware General Assembly is urged to increase amount of

Victims' Compensation Assistance Programs funeral allotment to \$5,000 and burial allotment to \$2,500 for a total of \$7,500.

Passed by City Council,

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

**SYNOPSIS:** A Resolution urging the Delaware General Assembly to increase the Victims' Compensation Assistance Program (VCAP) funeral and burial allotment to a total of \$7,500 for eligible applicants.