

*Wilmington City Council  
Wilmington, Delaware  
January 5, 2021*

**VIRTUAL INAUGURATION/ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING**

The virtual meeting was called to order by President Ernest M. “Trippi” Congo, II at 8:00 p.m.

The invocation was given by Bishop Aretha E. Morton.

The National Anthem was sung by Isura Ortega.

The Pledge of Alliance was recited.

At this time, The Honorable Judge Arlene M Coppadge was recognized as being present.

President Congo mentioned that he was sworn in earlier today and a video of the ceremony was played.

President Congo requested the Clerk read the Certificate of Election of City Council.

**CERTIFICATE OF ELECTION**

**STATE OF DELAWARE DEPARTMENT OF ELECTIONS – NEW CASTLE COUNTY OFFICE**

Be it remembered that at the General Election held on the first Tuesday next after the first Monday I November, in the year Two Thousand and Twenty, for the City of Wilmington, according to the laws of the State of Delaware, this Department hereby certifies the following to be the true result of the aforesaid election:

Elected 1<sup>st</sup> District, Linda Gray  
Elected 2<sup>nd</sup> District, Shané Darby  
Elected 3<sup>rd</sup> District, Zanthia Oliver  
Elected 4<sup>th</sup> District, Michelle Harlee  
Elected 5<sup>th</sup> District, Bregetta A. Fields  
Elected 6<sup>th</sup> District, Yolanda McCoy  
Elected 7<sup>th</sup> District, Chris Johnson  
Elected 8<sup>th</sup> District, Nathan Field  
At-Large, Maria D. Cabrera  
At-Large, Rysheema Dixon

At-Large, James Spadola  
At-Large, Loretta Walsh

/s/Tracey Dixon  
County Director

/s/Howard G. Sholl, Jr.  
Deputy County Director

Upon a motion of Mrs. McCoy, seconded by Ms. Oliver, the aforementioned certificates were received, recorded and filed, and the thirteen names of City Council were placed on the temporary roll.

President Congo appointed Mr. James Spadola, Ms. Maria D. Cabrera and Ms. Bregetta A. Fields as the Credentials Committee.

The Credentials Committee previously examined electronically the Official Results of the election and hearing no issues of their review, President Congo requested the Clerk to read the Credentials Committee Report.

The City Clerk read the following report of the Credentials Committee:

The Honorable President and Members  
of Wilmington City Council

Ladies and Gentlemen:

We, your **Credentials Committee by Virtual meeting**, have examined the Credentials of the President-Elect and Members-Elect of City Council and find that the several members-elect are fully qualified and entitled by law to assume their position as members of City Council.

Trippi Congo	President of City Council
Linda Gray	1 <sup>st</sup> Councilmanic District
Shané Darby	2 <sup>nd</sup> Councilmanic District
Zanthia Oliver	3 <sup>rd</sup> Councilmanic District
Michelle Harlee	4 <sup>th</sup> Councilmanic District
Bregetta A. Fields	5 <sup>th</sup> Councilmanic District
Yolanda McCoy	6 <sup>th</sup> Councilmanic District
Chris Johnson	7 <sup>th</sup> Councilmanic District
Nathan Field	8 <sup>th</sup> Councilmanic District
Maria D. Cabrera	At-Large
Rysheema Dixon	At-Large
James Spadola	At-Large
Loretta Walsh	At-Large

Respectfully submitted,  
James Spadola  
Maria D. Cabrera  
Bregetta A. Fields  
**Credentials Committee**

The Credentials Committee Report was duly accepted into the record. After reading the above-referenced Credentials Committee Report, the Oath of Office was administered virtually to the Members of Council by Judge Arlene M. Coppadge.

President Congo requested the Clerk to read the Certificate of Election of the Treasurer-Elect DaWayne Sims.

**CERTIFICATE OF ELECTON**

**STATE OF DELAWARE DEPARTMENT OF ELECTIONS – NEW CASTLE COUNTY OFFICE**

Be it remembered that at the General Election held on the first Tuesday next after the first Monday I November, in the year Two Thousand and Twenty, for the City of Wilmington, according to the laws of the State of Delaware, this Department hereby certifies the following to be the true result of the aforesaid election:

Elected City Treasurer  
DaWayne Sims

/s/Tracey Dixon  
County Director

/s/Howard G. Sholl, Jr.  
Deputy County Director

After reading the above-referenced Certificate of Election, the Oath of Office was administered virtually to Mr. DaWayne Sims by Judge Arlene M. Coppadge.

President Congo mentioned that Mayor Michael S. Purzycki was sworn in earlier today and a video of the ceremony was played.

**LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS**

On behalf of President Congo, Council Member Harlee presented Resolution No. 21-001 (Agenda #0001) as follows:

**WHEREAS**, in accordance with Section 2-104 of the City Charter, City Council shall determine its own rules and order of business; and

**WHEREAS**, City Council deems it advisable to adopt the proposed Rules for the 108th Council Session, attached hereto and made a part hereof, as its pemlanent rules.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WILMINGTON** that the proposed Rules for the 108th Council Session, attached hereto and made a part hereof, are adopted as the Rules of the Council of the City of Wilmington.

Upon a motion of Council Member Harlee, seconded by Council Member McCoy, the Resolution was before the Council for its consideration. Motion prevailed. Council Member Harlee spoke on the purpose of the Resolution. Council Member Gray made comments. Council Member Harlee made comments.

President Congo requested the Clerk to call for the roll.

The above-referenced Resolution was received, **DEFEATED** as read and directed to be recorded and filed by the following Yea and Nay Roll Call Vote: Yeas, Council Members Gray, Darby, Harlee, McCoy and Dixon, and Council President Congo. Total, six. Nays, Council Members Oliver, B. Fields, Johnson, N. Field, Cabrera, Spadola and Walsh. Total, seven.

President Congo declared the Resolution **Defeated**.

On behalf of President Congo, Council Member Harlee presented Resolution No. 21-002 (Agenda #0002) as follows:

**WHEREAS**, in accordance with Section 2-104 of the City Charter, City Council shall appoint a City Clerk at the organizational Council meeting to be held on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in January next succeeding the election of Council Members; and

**WHEREAS**, in accordance with Section 2-104 of the City Charter, City Council shall employ such other persons as may be necessary for the discharge of its business; and

**WHEREAS**, City Council is holding its organizational meeting for the 108th Council Session on Tuesday, January 5, 2021 at 8:00 p.m.; and

**WHEREAS**, Council deems it desirable to appoint a City Clerk and certain other persons necessary for the proper discharge of its business, all of whom shall serve at the pleasure of City Council.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WILMINGTON** that the following persons are hereby appointed as employees of City Council and shall be placed on the payroll of the City of Wilmington in the Office of the City Clerk:

- |    |                    |                                    |
|----|--------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1. | Devon Hynson       | Chief of Staff                     |
| 2. | Marchelle Basnight | Strategy & Policy Director         |
| 3. | Tonya Richardson   | Legislative & Community Director   |
| 4. | Maribel Seijo      | City Clerk                         |
| 5. | Traci Owens        | Executive Administrative Assistant |

6.	Akira Grenardo	Legislative Administrative Assistant Deputy City Clerk
7.	Nancy Lopez	Legislative Administrative Assistant
8.	Yesenia Taveras	Station Manager
9.	Wendell Raulston	Deputy Station Manager
10.	Mik Austin	Senior Producer
11.	To be determined	Senior Producer/On-Air Talent
12.	Saquan Stimpson	Digital Media Content Producer
13.	To be determined	Digital Media Content Coordinator
14.	India Williams	Producer/On-Air Talent
15.	Amanda Robins	Producer

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the City Clerk is hereby directed to forward copies of this Resolution to the Director of Human Resources, the City Treasurer, and the City Auditor.

Upon a motion of Council Member Harlee, seconded by Council Member McCoy, the Resolution was before the Council for its consideration. Motion prevailed. Council Member Harlee spoke on the purpose of the Resolution.

President Congo requested the Clerk to call for the roll.

The above-referenced Resolution was received, **DEFEATED** as read and directed to be recorded and filed by the following Yea and Nay Roll Call Vote: Yeas, Council Members Gray, Darby, Harlee, McCoy and Dixon, and Council President Congo. Total, six. Nays, Council Members Oliver, B. Fields, Johnson, N. Field, Cabrera, Spadola and Walsh. Total, seven.

President Congo declared the Resolution **Defeated**.

On behalf of President Congo, Council Member McCoy presented Resolution No. 21-003 (Agenda #0003) as follows:

**WHEREAS**, in accordance with Section 2-104 of the City Charter, City Council shall elect from among its members a President Pro Tempore to act in the event of the absence or disability of the Council President.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WILMINGTON** that Michelle Harlee is hereby elected as President Pro Tempore of the Council of the City of Wilmington for the 108th Council Session.

Upon a motion of Council Member McCoy, seconded by Council Member Dixon, the Resolution was before the Council for its consideration. Motion prevailed. Council Member McCoy spoke on the purpose of the Resolution.

President Congo requested the Clerk to call for the roll.

The above-referenced Resolution was received, **DEFEATED** as read and directed to be recorded and filed by the following Yea and Nay Roll Call Vote: Yeas, Council Members Gray, Darby, Harlee, McCoy and Dixon, and Council President Congo. Total, six. Nays, Council Members Oliver, B. Fields, Johnson, N. Field, Cabrera, Spadola and Walsh. Total, seven.

President Congo declared the Resolution defeated.

Council Member Johnson presented Resolution No. 21-004 (Agenda #0004) as follows:

**WHEREAS**, in accordance with Section 2-104 of the City Charter, City Council shall determine its own rules and order of business; and

**WHEREAS**, City Council deems it advisable to adopt the proposed Rules for the 108th Council Session, attached hereto and made a part hereof, as its permanent rules.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WILMINGTON** that the proposed Rules for the 108th Council Session, attached hereto and made a part hereof, are adopted as the Rules of the Council of the City of Wilmington.

Upon a motion of Council Member Johnson, seconded by Council Member Walsh, the Resolution was before the Council for its consideration. Motion prevailed. Council Member Johnson made comments. Council Member Darby made comments. Council Member Gray made comments. Council Member McCoy made comments. Council Member Harlee made comments and Council Member Dixon made comments.

President Congo requested the Clerk to call for the roll.

The above-referenced Resolution was received, **ADOPTED** as read and directed to be recorded and filed by the following Yea and Nay Roll Call Vote: Yeas, Council Members Oliver, B. Fields, Johnson, N. Field, Cabrera, Spadola and Walsh. Total, seven. Nays, Council Members Gray, Darby, Harlee, McCoy and Dixon, and Council President Congo. Total, six.

President Congo declared the Resolution adopted.

Council Member Johnson presented Resolution No. 21-005 (Agenda #0005) as follows:

**WHEREAS**, in accordance with Section 2-104 of the City Charter, City Council shall appoint a City Clerk at the organizational Council meeting to be held on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in January next succeeding the election of Council Members; and

**WHEREAS**, in accordance with Section 2-104 of the City Charter, City Council shall employ such other persons as may be necessary for the discharge of its business; and

**WHEREAS**, City Council is holding its organizational meeting for the 108th Council Session on Tuesday, January 5, 2021 at 8:00 p.m.; and

**WHEREAS**, Council deems it desirable to appoint a City Clerk and certain other persons necessary for the proper discharge of its business, all of whom shall serve at the pleasure of City Council.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WILMINGTON** that the following persons are hereby appointed as employees of City Council and shall be placed on the payroll of the City of Wilmington in the Office of the City Clerk:

- |     |                    |   |
|-----|--------------------|---|
| 1.  | Daniel T. Walker   | Chief of Staff  |
| 2.  | Marchelle Basnight | Strategy & Policy Director                                |
| 3.  | To be determined   | Legislative & Community Director                          |
| 4.  | Maribel Seijo      | City Clerk  |
| 5.  | Traci Owens        | Executive Administrative Assistant                        |
| 6.  | To be determined   | Legislative Administrative Assistant<br>Deputy City Clerk |
| 7.  | Akira Grenardo     | Legislative Administrative Assistant                      |
| 8.  | India Williams     | Producer  |
| 9.  | Amanda Robins      | Producer  |
| 10. | Yesenia Taveras    | Senior Producer/On-Air Talent                             |
| 11. | Mik Austin         | Senior Producer/On-Air Talent                             |
| 12. | Wendell Raulston   | Deputy Station Manager                                    |
| 13. | Paul Colsey        | Station Manager   |
| 14. | To be determined   | Digital & Web Content Coordinator                         |
| 15. | Saquan Stimpson    | Digital Media & Content Producer                          |

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the City Clerk is hereby directed to forward copies of this Resolution to the Director of Human Resources, the City Treasurer, and the City Auditor.

Upon a motion of Council Member Johnson, seconded by Council Member Walsh, the Resolution was before the Council for its consideration. Motion prevailed. Council Member Johnson made comments. Council Member Darby made comments. Council Member Harlee made comments. Council Member McCoy made comments.

Upon a motion of Council Member Johnson, seconded by Council Members Cabrera and Walsh, the above-referenced Resolution was amended as follows: In number 13 of the enacting clause of the Resolution, strike the name "*Paul Colsey*" and insert the phrase "*To be determined*". Motion prevailed.

President Congo made comments. City Solicitor Robert Goff responded and made comments. President Congo made additional comments. City Solicitor Goff made additional comments. Council Member Oliver made comments.

President Congo requested the Clerk to call for the roll.

The above-referenced Resolution, **As Amended**, was received, **ADOPTED** as read and directed to be recorded and filed by the following Yea and Nay Roll Call Vote: Yeas, Council Members Oliver, Harlee, B. Fields, McCoy, Johnson, N. Field, Cabrera, Dixon, Spadola and Walsh. Total, ten. Nays, Council Members Gray and Darby, and Council President Congo. Total, three.

President Congo declared the Resolution, As Amended adopted.

Council Member Johnson presented Resolution No. 21-006 (Agenda #0006) as follows:

**WHEREAS**, in accordance with Section 2-104 of the City Charter, City Council shall provide for such committees as it deems necessary; and

**WHEREAS**, City Council deems it desirable to establish the standing committees of Council for the 108th Council Session; and

**WHEREAS**, City Council deems it desirable to make personnel assignments to such standing committees.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WILMINGTON** that the standing committees of the Council of the City of Wilmington for the 108th Council Session and the personnel assignments for such committees shall be as follows:

**Finance & Economic Development**

Chair: Christofer Johnson  
Vice Chair: Michelle Harlee Nathan Field  
Zanthia Oliver  
Loretta Walsh  
James Spadola

**Public Safety**

Chair: Loretta Walsh  
Vice Chair: Rysheema Dixon Linda Gray  
Christofer Johnson  
Michelle Harlee  
James Spadola

**Education, Youth & Family Services**

Chair: Yolanda McCoy  
Vice Chair: Linda Gray  
Shané Darby  
Bregetta Fields

**Health, Aging & Disabilities**

Chair: Rysheema Dixon  
Vice Chair: Maria Cabrera  
Michelle Harlee  
Yolanda McCoy  
Bregetta Fields



**Community Development & Urban Planning**

Chair: Maria Cabrera  
Vice Chair: Nathan Field  
Yolanda McCoy  
Bregetta Fields  
James Spadola  
Shané Darby

**Intergovernmental**

Chair: Linda Gray  
Vice Chair: Shané Darby  
Michelle Harlee  
Yolanda McCoy  
Zanthia Oliver

**Public Works & Transportation**

Chair: Zanthia Oliver  
Linda Gray  
Nathan Field  
Bregetta Fields  
James Spadola

**Personnel**

Chair: Michelle Harlee  
Vice Chair: Shané Darby  
Nathan Field  
James Spadola

Upon a motion of Council Member Johnson, seconded by Council Member Walsh, the Resolution was before the Council for its consideration. Motion prevailed. Council Member Johnson spoke on the purpose of the Resolution. Council Member Gray raised a question and made comments. Council Member Harlee made comments. Council Member Darby made comments and raised a question. Council Member Johnson responded. Council Member Darby raised an additional question. President Congo stated for members to wait until the floor was given to speak. Council Member Johnson responded to Council Member Darby's question. Council Member Dixon made comments. Council Member Harlee made additional comments and raised a question. Council Member Johnson responded. Council Member Harlee made additional comments.

**ROLL CALL TO TABLE**

Upon a motion of Council Member Gray, seconded by Council Member McCoy, the motion to "**Table**" the above-referenced Resolution was **Defeated** by the following Yea and Nay Roll Call Vote: Yeas, Council Members Gray, Darby, Harlee, McCoy and Dixon, and Council President Congo. Total, Six. Nays, Council Members Oliver, B. Fields, Johnson, N. Field, Cabrera, Spadola and Walsh. Total, seven.

President Congo declared the motion to "Table" the Resolution defeated.

Council Member Darby made comments. Council Member McCoy made comments. Council Member Walsh made a point of order on personal comments being made and the point of order was noted by President Congo. Council Member McCoy made additional comments. Council Member Spadola made comments. Council Member Darby made additional comments. Council Member Harlee made comments. Council Member Gray made comments. Council Member Johnson made comments.

President Congo requested the Clerk to call for the roll.

The above-referenced Resolution was received, **ADOPTED** as read and directed to be recorded and filed by the following Yea and Nay Roll Call Vote: Yeas, Council Members Oliver, B. Fields, Johnson, N. Field, Cabrera, Spadola and Walsh. Total, seven. Nays, Council Members Gray, Darby, Harlee, McCoy and Dixon, and Council President Congo. Total, six.

President Congo declared the Resolution adopted.

Council Member Johnson presented Resolution No. 21-007 (Agenda #0007) as follows:

**WHEREAS**, in accordance with Section 2-104 of the City Charter, City Council shall elect from among its members a President Pro Tempore to act in the event of the absence or disability of the Council President.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WILMINGTON** that Maria Cabrera is hereby elected as President Pro Tempore of the Council of the City of Wilmington for the 108<sup>th</sup> Council Session.

Upon a motion of Council Member Johnson, seconded by Council Member Walsh, the Resolution was before the Council for its consideration. Motion prevailed.

President Congo requested the Clerk to call for the roll.

The above-referenced Resolution was received, **ADOPTED** as read and directed to be recorded and filed by the following Yea and Nay Roll Call Vote: Yeas, Council Members Oliver, B. Fields, Johnson, N. Field, Cabrera, Spadola and Walsh. Total, seven. Nays, Council Members Gray, Darby, Harlee, McCoy and Dixon, and Council President Congo. Total, six.

President Congo declared the Resolution adopted.

President Congo announced the Standing Committees along with the Chair of each committee.

At this time, statements of appreciations were made by members of City Council and Council President. President Congo thanked Bishop Morton and Judge Coppadge for their participation. In addition, statement of appreciation was made by City Treasurer DaWayne Sims.

President Congo announced Mayor Michael S. Purzycki's Inaugural Address will be presented by video and wished him a speedy recovery.

## 2021 INAUGURAL ADDRESS

Tonight, I express my appreciation and love to my wife, Bette, and to my entire family for their support. To the people of Wilmington, thank you for electing me to a second term. I am humbled and honored to serve you again and will do all I can to continue to strengthen our City and its people.

My entire Administration remains dedicated to making sure that when our time in office comes to a close, Wilmington and the people of this City are in a better position of opportunity, prosperity and equality than they were when we arrived in 2017. The priority of all of us in elected office should be to improve the overall quality of life for everyone.

I am looking forward to a new chapter in our working relationship with City Council. I am confident that this new session will bring about an elevated level of dialogue, understanding, cooperation and achievement for both the Administration and Council. I pledge to Council President-elect Congo and to each member of the 108<sup>th</sup> Council Session, my undivided attention to their concerns and those of their constituents. We have to govern together, and we'll make much more progress achieving our collective goals if we all do a better job of listening to each other and respecting each other.

2020 was a challenging year for the country and for our City as we coped with the pandemic. The new year will also be very challenging before we pull out of what we hope is a once in a lifetime crisis. Thus far, City government and its front-line workers have responded well to the difficulties posed by the pandemic. We've taken steps to keep our employees and City residents as healthy as possible and we've made sure that testing was widely available. The next line of defense is the vaccine. I would hope that when it becomes more widely available, we will all accept it as our best way to control COVID-19.

No pandemic or any other obstacle, however, should get in the way of Wilmington moving forward on its mission to become a more Just City—where respect, equality, and social and racial justice guide our hearts and actions every hour and every day. We are reinforcing Wilmington's position as a residential and business-friendly City. Our financial position remains strong as does our bond rating. The financial impact of COVID 19 is still evolving but I will keep you informed as we move through the next six months of this fiscal year and as we prepare for the new budget cycle which begins in March.

Our City's future looks bright regardless of the many challenges ahead. I am eager to work with the new Council. Let's be even more creative about finding and agreeing to

solutions to our problems as well as being a united voice to tout all the wonderful things about our City.

Benediction was given by Bishop Morton.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Upon a motion of Council Member McCoy, seconded by Council Members Dixon and Johnson, Council adjourned at 10:27 p.m. Motion prevailed.

Attest:   
Maribel Seijo, City Clerk