

Wilmington, Delaware
October 20, 2022

#0241

WHEREAS, Chapter 3 of the Wilmington City Code establishes the functions of the

Sponsor:

Wilmington Fire Department (the “Fire Department”); and

**Council
Member
Darby**

WHEREAS, the Wilmington Fire Department currently serves approximately 70,000 people within the limits of the City of Wilmington; and

WHEREAS, the Center for Public Safety Excellence’s (the “CPSE”) Commission on Fire Accreditation International (the “CFAI”) provides an accreditation process for fire departments nationwide. It is a process of voluntary agency self-assessment, which shows to the community that a fire department continually self-assesses, looks for opportunities for improvement, and is transparent and accountable through third party verification and validation; and

WHEREAS, the benefits of accreditation include peer assessment, improvement of safety and wellness, providing rationale for funding, and building trust in the community; and

WHEREAS, it may take from three (3) to five (5) years to work through the accreditation process to achieve accredited status; and

WHEREAS, the accreditation process would require the participation and cooperation of all members of the Fire Department; and

WHEREAS, there are currently 293 accredited fire agencies in the United States; and

WHEREAS, the costs for accreditation are specific to each fire department. The basic costs to the Fire Department include: a \$585 fee for three years of registered agency status, \$6,000 on-site assessment, approximately \$1,500 for travel to the CFAI hearing, and a fee of \$7,500 annually to maintain accredited status. The CFAI accreditation process also involves

miscellaneous costs associated with making the necessary preparations to meet the accreditation requirements; and

WHEREAS, Fire Departments in cities of similar sizes who have undertaken the CFAI accreditation process include the Bowling Green Fire Department (Kentucky), the Cherry Hill Fire Department (New Jersey), the Cobb County Fire and Emergency Services (Georgia), the Greenville City Fire Department (South Carolina), the Iowa City Fire Department (Iowa), the Palo Alto Fire Department (California), and the Schaumburg Fire Department (Illinois).

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WILMINGTON WHEREAS, in light of the foregoing, that City Council strongly recommends that the Mayor’s Office require that the Fire Department undergo the CFAI accreditation process.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Council is requesting that the Administration provide the necessary funds for CFAI accreditation in the Fire Department’s Fiscal Year 2024 budget allocation.

Passed by City Council,

ATTEST: _____
City Clerk

SYNOPSIS: This Resolution recommends that the Mayor’s Office require the Wilmington Fire Department undertake the accreditation process, as laid out by the Center for Public Safety Excellence’s Commission on Fire Accreditation International.