

Wilmington, Delaware
March 2, 2023

#0282

Sponsor:

**Council
Member
N. Field**

WHEREAS, it is important to showcase the wealth of history that exists in Wilmington by periodically highlighting key aspects of our City's story. 2024 will mark 285 years since our great City formally adopted the name of Wilmington and received a royal charter to become a borough. This moment represents a significant milestone that should be celebrated collectively; and

WHEREAS, the city now known as Wilmington dates back to 1638 when it became home to the first European settlement in the State and the first Swedish settlement in North America. In 2024, it will have been 386 years since the Swedes Landing and 293 years since the area became known as Willingtown, in recognition of Thomas Willing, the first 'developer' of the land; and

WHEREAS, the area was granted a charter to become a borough and named Wilmington by King George II in 1739. 2024 will also represent 221 years since DuPont de Nemours, Inc. ushered in the wave of economic and population growth that allowed Wilmington to flourish. On January 18, 2024, Wilmington will have achieved 191 years as an incorporated city with a Charter granted by the Delaware General Assembly; and

WHEREAS, the 175th-anniversary observance of Wilmington's charter as a city in 2007 was a memorable occasion that brought together people and organizations throughout our communities. The event was an opportunity to remember the formative moments in our City's history and coalesce around the pride of being Wilmingtonians.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WILMINGTON that this Legislative body is in support of continuing the tradition of commemorating the initial charter and establishment of our great City by its current name.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the events leading up to the recognition of the 285th anniversary of our City's name and first charter should take place throughout Wilmington, culminating in a meeting of Wilmington City Council in Old Town Hall, which has the distinction of being Wilmington's first public building. The proposed activities should showcase the diverse ethnic heritage, communal spirit, and array of stakeholders that make up the social fabric of our City.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution calls for the establishment of a taskforce of eleven (11) members to coordinate the schedule of events and planning for this momentous occasion.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution proposes that the taskforce submit findings and recommendations concerning the agenda and budgetary requirements for the 2024 anniversary celebration within ninety (90) days of the appointment of members.

Passed by City Council,

ATTEST: _____
City Clerk

SYNOPSIS: 2024 will mark 285 years since our great City formally adopted the name of Wilmington and received a royal charter to become a borough. This Resolution expresses support for commemorating this milestone and proposes that a taskforce be established to coordinate the schedule of events and planning for this momentous occasion.