



# WILMINGTON City Council



**22-MONTH REPORT: Jan. 2021 – Oct. 2022**

## MISSION

- Provide visionary leadership in policymaking on quality-of-life matters
- Develop well-researched legislation that will enable Wilmington government to provide its residents, visitors, and businesses with the highest quality of public services in a fiscally responsible manner through cooperative decision-making, strong ethical leadership, open communications and transparency with its public
- Fulfill the critical responsibility of providing a check on the executive branch of City government both through individual City Council Committees, and legislative measures to enhance transparency, accountability, and adherence to stated and collectively agreed upon goals for City operations
- Connect with constituents to identify needs in the community and to devise strategies to address those needs, both through legislation and through collaboration with the executive branch of the City government

## CITY COUNCIL PURVIEW

- 13 Elected Officials (part-time)
- Represents 8 District Members and 4 At-Large Members Across the City
- Governed by the City Code and State Charter

## PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITIES

- Enacting Laws (Ordinances)
- Annual Operating Budget
- Drafting Resolutions
- Provide Checks & Balances
- Provide Constituent Services for City Residents
- Redistricting



# 108TH SESSION OF THE WILMINGTON CITY COUNCIL



**ERNEST "TRIPPI" CONGO II**

**City Council President 108th  
Session from 2021 - 2024**

[econgo@wilmingtonde.gov](mailto:econgo@wilmingtonde.gov)



**MICHELLE HARLEE**

**Council Member  
District 4  
108th Session from 2021 - 2024**

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**LINDA M. GRAY**

**Council Member  
District 1  
108th Session from 2021 - 2024**

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**BREGETTA A. FIELDS**

**Council Member  
District 5  
108th Session from 2021 - 2024**

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**SHANÉ N. DARBY**

**Council Member  
District 2  
108th Session from 2021 - 2024**

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**YOLANDA M. MCCOY**

**Council Member  
District 6  
108th Session from 2021 - 2024**

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**ZANTHIA OLIVER Council  
Member  
District 3**

**108th Session from 2021 - 2024**

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**CHRIS JOHNSON**

**Council Member  
District 7  
108th Session from 2021 - 2024**

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# 108TH SESSION OF THE WILMINGTON CITY COUNCIL



**NATHAN FIELD**

**Council Member  
District 8  
108th Session from 2021 - 2024**

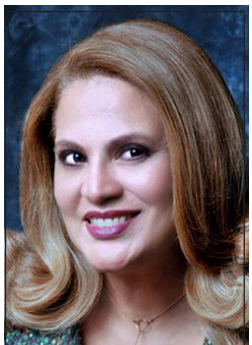
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**JAMES SPADOLA**

**Council Member  
At-Large  
108th Session from 2021 - 2024**

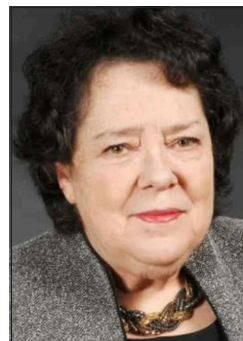
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**MARIA D. CABRERA**

**Council Member At-Large &  
President Pro-Tempore  
108th Session from 2021 - 2024**

[mcabrera@wilmingtonde.gov](mailto:mcabrera@wilmingtonde.gov)



**LORETTA WALSH**

**Council Member  
At-Large  
108th Session from  
Jan. 6, 2021 - Oct. 6, 2022**



**RYSHEEMA DIXON**

**Council Member  
At-Large  
108th Session from  
Jan. 6, 2021 - Jan. 7, 2022**



**VACANT**

**Council Member  
At-Large  
108th Session from  
Oct. 7, 2022 - Present**



**ALBERT "AL" MILLS**

**Council Member At-Large  
108th Session from  
March 3, 2022 - 2024**

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Council seats are considered part-time positions (although some members make full-time contributions). District members generally respond to constituent concerns in their geographical areas, while at-large members tend to focus on their specific committee objectives and general constituents' concerns.

The Council meets on the first and third Thursday of each month in Council Chambers, located on the first floor of the Louis L. Redding City/County Building, 800 North French Street. Meetings commence at 6:30p.m.





## 22-MONTH REPORT: Jan. 2021– Oct. 2022

The 22-Month Report recounts how the Wilmington City Council deployed its leadership and resources to improve the City of Wilmington's economic and social well-being. The Council's initiatives, legislation, and collaboration continue to respond to the urgent needs of constituents while keeping an eye on the future as the city grows.

## City Council President's Message

### ERNEST "TRIPPI" CONGO II

*"The Wilmington City Council has much to celebrate in 2021 and 2022, and I want to thank my council colleagues and council staff for a job well done. We've learned together and we've grown together in our first year. We may not always agree, but we continue to work together as One Council because we are all here to serve our community."*

— Ernest "Trippi" Congo, Wilmington City Council President

As I reflect on the moments that defined our City this past year, or so, much has happened. The year 2021 and 2022 has been overwhelming for so many of us as we battled with a host of COVID-19 variants, a natural disaster, and Monkeypox.

Looking back, as we entered 2021 there was a significant spike in positive cases, but a COVID-19 vaccine was on the horizon. The extraordinary teamwork put forth by my Council colleagues included hosting multiple vaccination events offered throughout our city, which meant that men, women, and children in under-served populations had the opportunity to get vaccinated and boosted.

Over the past 22 months, Council worked diligently to address the multitude of issues facing our great city. We joined forces to condemn gun violence and awarded \$45,000 in new micro-grants to several grassroots agencies working hard to overcome the violence and its impacts from it. We also held several stop the violence rallies and numerous presentations to better inform the public.

We passed a resolution that identified multiple categories of funding for the \$55 million in American Rescue Plan Act funds that includes neighborhood revitalization, improving education, increasing access to capital for entrepreneurs, training City residents for employment, stabilizing the government's financial condition, and the inclusion of \$8 million to address gun violence.

We launched Wilmington's first disparity study to review the City government's procurement system, in order to help make changes in the way the City awards contracts to minority- and women-owned businesses.

We came together to donate food, clothing, water, and household items to those living in homes that were affected by the remnants of Hurricane Ida.



We held multiple "One Council" community events in an effort to work together to significantly impact our communities. One event raised \$2,000 for the purchase of food, masks, hand sanitizers, and other COVID safety-related supplies. Another event supported the 35th annual AIDS Walk Delaware, where over \$115,000 was raised to help support the programs of AIDS Delaware and Delaware HIV Consortium.

We worked diligently to complete the redistricting process to reflect how local populations have shifted over the past 10 years, and we passed a new law that requires the City Council and its Redistricting Committee to count incarcerated individuals in the City of Wilmington as residents of their last known addresses.

I, along with Mayor Mike Purzycki, released a report from The Community Based Public Safety Collective (CBPS Collective)—a report that was requested by Wilmington to support City efforts to reduce and prevent gun violence, which included a review of local crime and hospital data, including demographics of victims and responsible parties, motivations of shootings, and 58 interviews with City leadership, community members, interventionists, and other stakeholders.

HOUSE BILL NO. 422 was passed by the House of Representatives 151st General Assembly to amend Section 3-304 of the City of Wilmington's Charter to allow the City of Wilmington to determine whether, and to what extent, its employees are required to be City residents. This Act does not affect residency requirements for City Council Members.

Our first 22 months spoke to Council's commitment to serving our constituents. I look forward to even more collaborative and productive work in the years ahead.



# Know Your Form of Government

It is important to know your city's classification. Wilmington, Delaware operates under a mayor–council government system. In the mayor-council form, policy and administration are separated. All legislative and some policymaking powers are vested in the city council. The administrative authority, including veto power, is vested in the mayor.

Key characteristics include:

- The mayor is elected separately from the council.
- The mayor has strong powers, which means the mayor directs the administrative structure, appointing and removing department heads.
- The mayor drafts and proposes a budget to the city council.
- The mayor possesses veto or line-item veto power.
- The mayor exercises oversight of the city's day-to-day operations.
- Council is elected separately from the Mayor.
- The city council is an elected body of legislators who govern the municipality.
- Council maintains legislative powers by creating and passing city laws and ordinances.
- The mayor enforces city laws and ordinances.
- The mayor is not a member of the city council.
- The council includes a president, eight district members, and four at-large members.
- Other elected position includes the city treasurer.
- Council confirms the appointment of City Solicitor and City Auditor by Resolution of the Council.

## Standing Committees

The city council operates under a committee system with 8 standing committees. The president of the council is an ex-officio member of all standing committees. The Council by Resolution appoints Chairs, Vice-Chairs, and members of all Council committees. Committees hold open meetings to discuss the issues before them and to make reports and recommendations to the full body of the council. The committees' recommendations usually are adopted by the council.

Therefore, citizens wishing to be heard on issues are encouraged to voice their concerns at the appropriate committee meetings.



The committees of the council for 2021 through 2024 are as follows:

**Community Development & Urban Planning** Maria D. Cabrera (Chair), Nathan Field (Vice Chair), Yolanda M. McCoy, Bregetta A. Fields, James Spadola, and Shané N. Darby.

**Education, Youth & Families** Yolanda M. McCoy (Chair), Shané N. Darby, Bregetta A. Fields, Zanthia Oliver, Albert Mills

**Finance & Economic Development** Chris Johnson (Chair), Michelle Harlee (Vice Chair), Nathan Field, Zanthia Oliver, Loretta Walsh, James Spadola

**Health, Aging & Disabilities** Bregetta A. Fields (Chair), Maria D. Cabrera (Vice Chair), Yolanda M. McCoy, Albert Mills, Zanthia Oliver

**Intergovernmental** Linda M. Gray (Chair), Shané N. Darby (Vice Chair), Michelle Harlee, Yolanda M. McCoy, Zanthia Oliver

**Personnel** Michelle Harlee (Chair), Chris Johnson (Vice Chair), Shané N. Darby, Nathan Field, James Spadola

**Public Safety** Zanthia Oliver (Vice Chair), Linda M. Gray, Chris Johnson, James Spadola, Albert Mills

**Public Works & Transportation** Zanthia Oliver (Chair), Linda M. Gray, Nathan Field, Bregetta A. Fields, James Spadola

## About Legislation

City Council writes and passes local laws that affect the day-to-day lives of people living in, working in, or visiting Wilmington. As the legislative body, the City Council is responsible for setting City policy through ordinances and resolutions.

### The Legislative Process

#### **Step 1: Bill Introduction**

Council Members work with Council staff and the City Solicitor's Office to craft a bill that is introduced at stated meetings, where it is assigned to the appropriate Committee.

#### **Step 2: Public Hearings**

The Committee will hold a public hearing on a bill to obtain feedback from the public and other government entities that may be affected by the bill. This may result in amendments to the bill.

#### **Step 3: Voting**

The Committee votes on the bill. If the bill passes the Committee by majority vote, the bill is then sent to the full Council where it will be considered and voted on at a Stated Meeting. The bill must again pass by majority vote.

#### **Step 4: Mayoral Decision**

After a bill is passed by the Council, it is presented to the Mayor, who has 10 days to either sign the bill into law, veto the bill or take no action. If the Mayor vetoes the bill, it is sent back to the Council. If this happens, the Council can override the Mayor's veto with a 2/3 vote. If the Mayor doesn't sign or veto the bill within 10 days, it becomes law.

#### **Step 5: Bill Becomes Law**

Once a bill is signed by the Mayor (or its veto has been overridden by Council), it's then added to the Wilmington City Charter or Administrative Code.



## The Four (4) Pillars of City Council President Congo's Vision for the 108th Session

**(1) ONE COUNCIL:** This vision operates as one council with one ultimate goal. This element is vital in order to maintain the integrity of growth, and the ultimate vision of what the 108th legacy will be. It highlights what team energy looks like and public service with council members as a whole. The impact of working as one council is what our community depends on to shape its growth and to have measurable outcomes.

### **One Council events included the following:**

- **Food drive at East Side Charter School:** Our first event raised \$2,000 towards the purchase of food, masks, hand sanitizers, and other COVID safety-related supplies.
- **35th Annual AIDS Walk Delaware:** Members of Wilmington City Council showed up together to walk as a "One Council" team. Our contributions went towards more than \$115,000 raised for the event, which will support programs of AIDS Delaware and Delaware HIV Consortium.
- **City of Wilmington Parks & Recreation Bob King Developmental Track & Field Meets** Members of the City Council and staff participated in meets as a "One Council" team. The Bob King Track & Field Meets are a series of free summer events held by the City's Parks and Recreation Department for youth ages 18 & under; collegiate 19 to 34; and masters 35+. Each week a different age group competed in a number of limited events, including field events like the long jump, triple jump, and shot put.



# The Four (4) Pillars of City Council President Congo's Vision for the 108th Session

**(2) PARTNERSHIPS:** This area focuses on building impact-driven partnerships within 4 key areas - government, schools, businesses, and non-profits. This element is vital because where resource gaps exist within City Council, the partnered groups can fulfill the need or create a voice at the stakeholders' table.

**Nemours Foundation:** City Council awarded \$13,500 in grant funding to the Nemours Foundation to assist the displaced families from apartments 808 to 820 North Adams Street after the City of Wilmington Licenses and Inspections Department deemed the apartment units unsafe. Nemours covered storage costs for eight families and provided luggage bags filled with personal hygiene items and other necessities.

**The President of the City Council, with the support of the Council, awarded \$45,000 in new micro-grants to the following 10 grassroots agencies working hard to quell gun violence and its impacts from it:**

1. Stop the Violence Coalition
2. Safe United Neighborhoods
3. Network Connect
4. 302 Guns Down
5. Cultural Restoration Program
6. Christina Cultural Arts Center – Heart Under the Hoodie
7. Youth Empowerment Program
8. Community Intervention Team
9. Together Everybody Achieves More
10. Churches Take A Corner

**Multiple Vaccination Events:** To encourage more people to get vaccinated and to ensure that Wilmington's underserved communities have access to the COVID-19 vaccine, City Council held multiple on-site vaccination events throughout the city.



**Gun Violence Awareness Events:** Council partnered with community organizations and a nationally renowned expert in violence reduction for a peace rally that addressed the tragic gun violence that continues to plague our communities. Council also listened to and received letters from students of Kuumba Academy Charter School that spoke to gun violence, drugs, and other topics directly affecting our youth.

**Adopted the report titled "Landscape Analysis Report for the City of Wilmington."** Wilmington City Council worked with Mayor Mike Purzycki to contract Community Based Public Safety (CBPS) Collective to create a report that provided a framework for a coordinated, sustainable, solution-oriented approach to violence by providing "General Recommendations" and "Suggested Action Steps" that give consideration to the City's unique needs.

**No Limit Hurricanes city's youth athletic football team:** City Council awarded more than \$3,000 to help break down the financial barriers facing No Limit Hurricanes city's youth athletic football team. The funds went towards the purchase of new uniforms and sports equipment for the 6U team.





# The Four (4) Pillars of City Council President Congo's Vision for the 108th Session

**(3) COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT:** The ultimate goal of this focus area is to build direct and personal engagements with constituents. Community engagement is built on trust and respect as well as engagement activities that provide “feel good” moments to the community.

**Substitute No. 1 to Ordinance No. 21-006:** This legislation improves living conditions for residents who rent their residences and improve the housing stock of Wilmington through effective enforcement of the City Code. This legislation will allow Wilmington’s License and Inspection to better enforce the housing code on rental properties through a civil system versus the prior criminal system. In addition, it provides for an open process to appeal the citations to an independent board.

**Virtual Community Conversation:** The City Council President held a virtual community conversation event for Wilmington community members to discuss the roughly \$55 million American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds Wilmington received. The ARPA was passed by Congress and signed into law by President Biden on March 11, 2021, to provide economic relief in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

**New Bancroft School Public Meetings:** Council engaged with East Side residents to better inform them of project updates to the new Bancroft School.

**Resolution 21-050:** A Resolution Authorizing the City to Accept Conditional Gifts of Playground Equipment and Funding from Cornerstone West Community Development Corporation and a Conditional Gift of Funding from the New Castle County Conservation District for Improvements in Tilton Park.



**Food Drives:** Council supported and participated in multiple food drives around the city giving residents access to over 100,000 pounds of food. Community Partnerships included West Side Health, Lt. Governor Bethany Hall-Long, La Maxima 104.1, Latin American Community Center, West Side Grows Together, 302GunsDown, Bernie's Water Ice, DE WINS, and The Roberto Clemente League.

**New Kirkwood Park:** Council supported the new \$339,000 Kirkwood Park located adjacent to the Christina School District’s Stubbs Early Education Center. The City of Wilmington playground was funded by the City, State, and school district. The new playground boasts several features that will promote childhood literacy, which includes a custom reading shade for public storybook readings in conjunction with Stubbs and talking point panels developed by Too Small to Fail, an organization leading a public awareness and action campaign to promote the importance of early brain and language development. The new Kirkwood Park playground also features a new Venti net climbing play structure that children can enjoy with their families, along with other “safe, age-appropriate and ability appropriate” play equipment.





## The Four (4) Pillars of City Council President Congo's Vision for the 108th Session

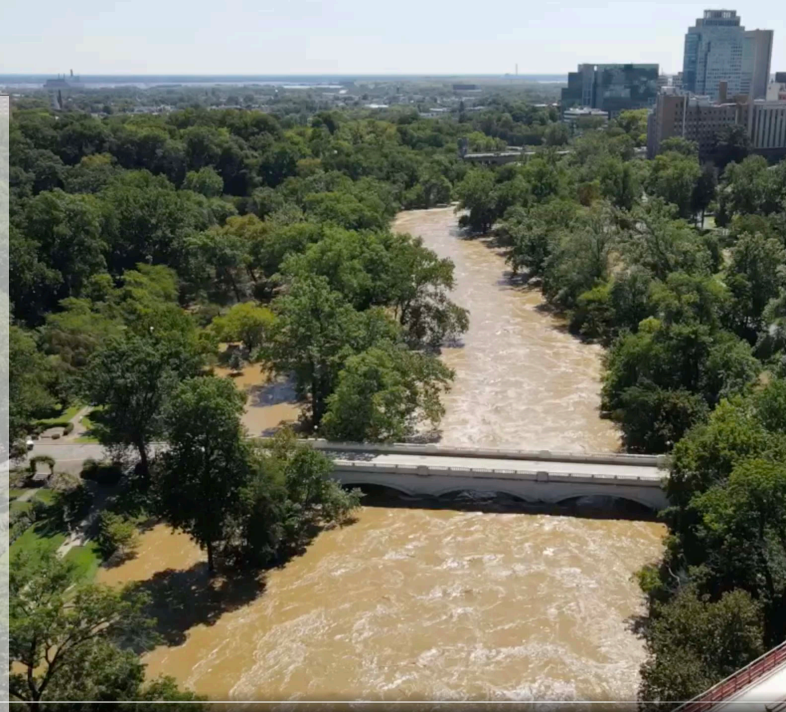
**(4) ADVOCACY:** The vision is to engage with individuals of the community to address concerns or change policies, laws, or rules that impact how someone lives their life or in their environment. These efforts can be targeted at the local level or state level. Staying engaged with these community voices will help influence the changes our community demands in local or state policy.

**Hurricane Ida:** Parts of our city were directly impacted by the devastating storm and floods from Hurricane Ida. More than 200 people were rescued after the Brandywine River reached record levels, and City Council joined community organizations to donate food, clothing, water, and household items to those living in homes that were flooded by the Brandywine River.

**Disparity Study:** Council launched Wilmington's first disparity study to review whether any barriers exist that make it harder for minority- and woman-owned businesses to compete for City contracts and procurements.

**Ordinance 21-050:** Wilmington City Council approved a new ordinance that amends Chapter 2 of the City Code to require the City Council and its Redistricting Committee to count incarcerated individuals in the City of Wilmington as residents of their last known addresses when new legislative district lines are drawn for redistricting purposes.

**Light Up the Eastside:** In an effort to reduce criminal activity and energy consumption, Council sponsored the first "Light Up the Eastside" Event in Partnership with East Side Civic Association and The HELP Initiative, Inc. that included more than 300 Energy Efficient LED Lights being installed to residents homes with outdoor fixtures.



**An Ordinance to Create a Temporary City Council Special Fund for Community Support Grants for Entities Impacted by the COVID-19 Pandemic:** City Council passed this Ordinance to create a temporary City Council special fund (the "Special Fund") for community support grants for entities impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic and authorized a one-time transfer of One Million Three Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$1,300,000.00) (the "Funds") from the Tax Stabilization Reserve portion of the General Fund Balance to the Special Fund.



## FEATURED LEGISLATION AND EVENTS PER CITY COUNCIL MEMBER

The Wilmington City Council discusses, develops, and enacts laws and city policies governing many aspects of city operations. Policymaking often takes the form of passing ordinances or resolutions. After policy decisions are made by the legislative body, the Mayor's Administration implements the policies. Below is a list of featured legislation and events per city council member.

### 1st District - Linda M. Gray

- **Res. 22-036:** A Resolution Requesting the Delaware General Assembly Amend the Firearms Preemption Statute.
- **Ordinance 21-056:** An Ordinance to Amend Chapter 8 of the City Code to Create a Down-Payment and Settlement Assistance Program.
- **Ordinance 21-055:** An Ordinance to Amend Chapter 37 of the City Code Relating to the Removal of Abandoned Vehicles Within the City.
- **Event:** The Police Athletic League of Wilmington (PALW) Unveiled its Kid-Designed, Community-Built Playground on Friday, June 10, 2022, at 3710 N Market St, Wilmington, DE 19802. A total of approximately 130 volunteers from the PALW, DISCOVER, and KABOOM! joined forces to help build the playground.

### 2nd District – Shané Darby

- **Ordinance 21-050:** An Ordinance to Amend Chapter 2 of the City Code to Require that Incarcerated Individuals in State of Delaware and Federal Correctional Facilities Who Were City Residents Before Incarceration Be Counted At Their Respective Last Known City Addresses for Redistricting Purposes.
- **Resolution 22-069 A Resolution Establishing a Fines & Fees Taskforce:** This Resolution establishes a taskforce of City Council to be known as the Fines & Fees Taskforce in order to review fees, fines, and administrative sanctions administered by the City, make findings, and, if the taskforce determines that changes are necessary, submit recommendations to the City Council.
- **Event:** Wilmington's 2nd District receives DART Bus Stop Improvements.
- **Event:** Brought COVID testing sites to the district.

### 3rd District – Zanthia Oliver

- **Event:** July 11, 2021 Stop the Violence Rally at Kirkwood Street Park with Elder Joe Paul, Jr., a long-time reentry professional and religious leader from Los Angeles. The event featured a youth rap session at the Teen Warehouse, and three caskets to show the youth the outcome of gun violence and the impact funerals have on loved ones left to work through the grieving process that one truly never heals from.
- **Event:** "Light Up the Eastside" event in partnership with East Side Civic Association and the HELP Initiative, Inc. installs over 300 LED lights to residents with outdoor fixtures to help light up our streets in an effort to reduce criminal activity. The Light Up the Eastside event is designed to improve public safety by providing residents in high-rise places for criminal behavior during nighttime areas within the City of Wilmington with Dusk to Dawn Energy Efficient LED lights for their front porches or entrance lights.
- **Event:** Held Northeast Civic Association meeting at the Hope Commission where residents had the opportunity to hear from and ask questions to Wilmington's Fire Prevention Unit Inspector Hank Rose. Harold Stafford, Government Relations Director of Help Initiative Delaware, was also in attendance to provide information about new outdoor lighting, showerheads, and energy assessment grants available to Wilmington residents and small businesses.

### 4th District – Michelle Harlee

- **Sub. 1 to Ordinance 21-001:** An Ordinance Wherein the City of Wilmington Accepts the Dedication of Four Streets at the Riverfront, Naming Them "Judy Johnson Drive," "South Madison Street," "Shipyard Drive," and "Frawley Drive."
- **Resolution 21-044:** A Resolution Approving the Department of Parks and Recreation's Grant Application to the State of Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control for Funds Allocated Pursuant to the 2021 Outdoor Recreation, Parks and Trails Grant Program to Support Improvements to the Christina Park Pier.
- **Resolution 22-051:** A Resolution in Support of House Bill No. 25, an Act to Amend Title of the Delaware Code Relating to Elections.
- **Event:** November 22, 2021 held a "Thanksgiving Turkey Giveaway" at Bethel Villa Apartments with NCC Executive Matt Meyer.



## FEATURED LEGISLATION AND EVENTS PER CITY COUNCIL MEMBER

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### 5th District – Bregetta A. Fields

- **Ordinance 22-030:** An Ordinance to Approve the Disposition of Seven Properties Located in the West Center City Neighborhood to Graduates of the Jumpstart Wilmington Program.
- **Resolution 21-050:** A Resolution Authorizing the City to Accept Conditional Gifts of Playground Equipment and Funding from Cornerstone West Community Development Corporation and a Conditional Gift of Funding from the New Castle County Conservation District for Improvements in Tilton Park.
- **Ordinance 21-025:** An Ordinance to Authorize and Approve an Educational Access Channel Agreement (Contract 22009CCPS) Between the City of Wilmington and the Red Clay Consolidated School District.

### 6th District – Yolanda McCoy

- **Event:** Organized Zoom Town Hall to discuss demolition application for Brown Mansion
- **Event:** Browntown Community Day with Wilmington Fire Department at Brown Chiachi Park
- **Event:** Hedgeville Community Day at Kosciuszko Park
- **Event:** Community Project Day at Pulaski Park (paint fencing)
- **Event:** Community Project Day at Nicki DeAngelo Children Garden
- **Event:** Community Cleanup at Canby Park Townhomes
- **Event:** Friends of Kosciuszko Park Gardening Day (plant flowers)
- **Event:** Partnership with Pathways to extend summer hours at the YEP Center with Summer Safe Haven funds.
- **Event:** Partnership with Parks & Recreation and Playstreets
- **Event:** Partnered with DMV on the Go, trailer sits in the 6th District every Tuesday.

### 7th District – Chris Johnson

- **Resolution 22-018 A Resolution Urging the Delaware General Assembly (DGA) to Support Senate Bill No. 149 in the Form that it was Introduced to the DGA:** This Resolution urges the Delaware General Assembly to pass Senate Bill No. 149 ("SB149") in the form that it was introduced to the Delaware General Assembly. SB149, as introduced, enables any state agency, county or municipality to establish a community review board, and empowers such boards to hear and decide law-enforcement disciplinary matters, and issue subpoenas in connection with such proceedings.
- **Resolution 22-053 A Resolution Urging the Delaware General Assembly to Support SS No. 1 to SB No. 3 to Better Regulate Firearms and Promote Responsible Gun Ownership:** This Resolution urges the members of the Delaware General Assembly to support SS No. 1 for SB No. 3 to better regulate the sale and transfer of firearms and promote responsible gun ownership.
- **Ordinance 22-031:** An Ordinance to Create a Temporary City Council Special Fund for Community Support Grants for Entities Impacted by the COVID-19 Pandemic
- **Sub. 1 to Ordinance 22-016:** An Ordinance Adopting the Annual Operating Budget for the Fiscal Year Beginning on July 1, 2022 and Ending on June 30, 2023

### 8th District – Nathan Field

- **Ordinance 21-049:** An Ordinance to Amend Chapter 37 of the City Code to Ensure Privately Owned Official Traffic Control Devices are Removed within a Reasonable Time After the Completion of a Construction Project.
- **Event:** Promoted Trolley Square as a place people want to live and work and established the City of Wilmington more broadly as "The" art and cultural capital of Delaware through murals painted on eighteen utility boxes throughout Trolley Square by local artists.
- **Event:** Hosted "Coffee and Donuts" listening sessions at Lincoln Towers, Luther Towers I and II and Ingleside, the senior living facilities in the 8th District to listen to their concerns.

## FEATURED LEGISLATION AND EVENTS PER CITY COUNCIL MEMBER

The Wilmington City Council discusses, develops, and enacts laws and city policies governing many aspects of city operations. Policymaking often takes the form of passing ordinances or resolutions. After policy decisions are made by the legislative body, the Mayor's Administration implements the policies. Below is a list of featured legislation and events per city council member.

### At-Large – Maria Cabrera

- **Sub. 1 to Ordinance 21-006:** An Ordinance to Amend Chapter 34 of the City Code to Revise Certain Enforcement Provisions and Civil Fines for Owners of Rental Properties.
- **Resolution 21-029:** A Resolution to Support Building a National Park in Wilmington to Reconnect and Restore Neighborhoods Divided by Installation of Interstate 95.
- **Resolution 22-015:** A Resolution to the U.S. Congress in Support of VICTIM Act of 2021, H.R. 5768.
- **Resolution 22-035:** A Resolution in Support of SB No. 231 that Prohibits the use of Gender, Gender Identity or Sex as a Rating Factor in Personal Automobile Insurance Policies.
- **Event:** Hosted Vaccination Events throughout the City for undeserved populations.

### At-Large – Rysheema Dixon (January 2021 - January 2022)

- **Resolution 21-024:** A Resolution Encouraging the State of Delaware to Take Action and Develop and Support Legislation that would Further Prevent the Sale of Flavored Tobacco Products to Kids.
- **Resolution 21-018:** A Resolution to Conduct a Disparity Study Regarding Economic Development and Healthcare Access and Opportunity in Wilmington.

### At-Large – Albert "Al" Mills (March 3, 2022 - 2024)

- **Event:** Collaborated and held internal meetings with youth and young adults to discuss gun diversion programs.

### At-Large – James Spadola

- **Sub. 1 to Ordinance 21-044:** An Ordinance to Amend Chapter 2 of the City Code to Require Annual Ethics Training
- **Ordinance 21-022:** An Ordinance to Amend Chapter 2 of the City Code to Prohibit the Establishment of Police Ticket and Arrest Quotas.

### At-Large – Loretta Walsh (Jan. 6, 2021 - Oct. 6, 2022 )

- **Ordinance 21-027:** An Ordinance to Authorize and Approve an Agreement Between the City of Wilmington and Axon Enterprise, Inc. for Tasers and Related Services
- **Resolution 21-039 A Resolution Regarding the Wilmington Police Department Commencing an Academy Class:** In this Resolution, the City Council recognizes that the Chief of the Police Department has represented that the manpower of the Police Department has fallen below ninety-five percent of the number of police officers set forth in the position allocation list attached to the fiscal year 2022 annual operating budget ordinance and has drafted a resolution calling for the commencement of an academy class for the Police Department.
- **Ordinance 21-046 An Ordinance to Amend Chapter 40 of the City Code to Eliminate Bumping Rights for Non-Unions Employees in the Classified Service:** This Ordinance amends Chapter 40 of the City Code to eliminate bumping rights for non-union employees in the classified service. It does not affect any other rights provided to classified, non-union employees with respect to the City's seniority and layoff system. It also does not affect any rights provided to union employees in the classified service with respect to the City's seniority and layoff system.



WILMINGTON CITY COUNCIL

### Wilmington City Council

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# We dedicate this page to the City Council Members whose lives we lost during the 108th Session of Wilmington City Council

## Statement on the Passing of former City Council Member At-Large Rysheema Dixon



*"On remembering our friend and longtime colleague, we are deeply saddened by the sudden loss of Rysheema Dixon. As a former At-Large City Council member, educator, community activist, and business entrepreneur, Rysheema had an incredible impact on our city. She was a tireless community champion who continuously went above and beyond for her city since first being elected to the Council in November 2016 and again in November 2020. As the city's youngest and first African American woman in the At-Large seat, Rysheema's passion for serving others, diversifying Wilmington, and improving the quality of life for all citizens will not be forgotten. Our deepest condolences go to Rysheema's family and all those she touched throughout her remarkable life. We will never forget Rysheema's contributions to making Wilmington the best it can be."*



# Rysheema Dixon

JANUARY 2017 - JANUARY 2022

Rysheema Dixon served as Council Member At-Large from January 2017 to January 2022.

**Wilmington City Council**

## Statement on the Passing of former City Council Member At-Large Loretta Walsh

*"Loretta Walsh will be remembered as a dedicated public servant and a true friend to many in this community. Our deepest condolences and sympathies go to Walsh's family and loved ones. Her legacy is drawn from so many significant milestones and accomplishments for the city. At a time when it was really tough to be on the city council, Loretta used her strong voice to become Wilmington City Council's first elected woman to serve as an at-large council member. She was known to be a voice for women - a trailblazer for women in the community and politics - and a voice for the voiceless. With the tenacity of a fighter who would not back down, Walsh brought compassion and care into politics. Her experience and love for her city helped us succeed on so many levels that carried us into the new millennium. We are heartbroken but will continue, as a council, to honor her mission of service, advocacy, policy advisory, mentorship, and leadership."*



# Loretta Walsh

Council Member At-Large

Loretta Walsh served as Council Member At-Large from 1985 to 1997, and 2004 to Oct. 6, 2022.

**Wilmington City Council**



## Summary Highlights Include:

- **Council Approves Redistricting Ordinance 21-060 to Amend Chapter 2 of the City Code.** This process included redrawing the lines of districts from which public officials are elected to accommodate population changes from the previous decade. This process is required pursuant to Section 2-102 of the Wilmington City Charter.
- **Council approved the City budget for the fiscal year.** On May 20, 2021, the Council approved the City's \$172.7 million operating budget and the \$79.6 million water/sewer/storm water budget, for the Fiscal Year 2022. Council agreed to add funding for additional public safety programs and neighborhood stabilization efforts that included \$300,000 for a gun violence prevention program; \$50,000 to support the Wilmington Citizen Complaint Review Board; and \$40,000 to enhance the work of the citywide Neighborhood Planning Councils (NPC). On May 19, 2022, the Council approved the \$176,865,305 operating budget, which is up \$4.1M over the prior year's budget. This budget includes a 6.0% Property Tax Rate, which equates to \$2.6M in additional revenue for the City and an increase of \$41.76 (or \$3.48 per month) to the annual property tax bill for the average homeowner in the City of Wilmington. The FY2023 Water Sewer Fund Budget totals \$82,144,457, which is up \$2.5M over the prior year's budget and includes a 5% Water Sewer Rate increase that equates to an additional \$2.35 per monthly increase to residents' water bill based upon 4,000 gallons usage.
- **Council approved budget uses for the federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding with the goal of balancing city needs to recover from the pandemic.** The appropriations for the unprecedented distribution of \$55.6 million in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds over a two-year budgeting period included the following: Revenue Replacement of \$12 million to solidify the City's financial condition because of revenue lost due to COVID-19; Neighborhood Revitalization of \$22 million for capital investment in historically underserved neighborhoods; Workforce Development investment of \$4 million to fund skills training and internships for employment; Community investment of \$5 million to assist nonprofits in restoring COVID-affected programming for communities, including \$300,000 for distribution by City Council.
- **Council approved Ordinance 22-031:** An Ordinance to Create a Temporary City Council Special Fund for Community Support Grants for Entities Impacted by the COVID-19 Pandemic.
- **Addressing the City's gun violence:** Council distributed \$45,000 in micro grants and approved \$300,000 in our annual budget to go towards gun violence initiatives for the first time ever. The goal of this funding is to directly support community-based violence interventions and partnerships with city government to have a greater impact on reducing gun violence in neighborhoods throughout Wilmington.
- Council has openly called on the police chief to put forth a plan for violence reduction.
- The Mayor's Administration and the City Council worked with Aqeela Sherrills and Elizabeth Ruebman, the Co-Founders of the Community Based Public Safety Collective, to complete a landscape analysis report to achieve the goals for violence reduction. Council adopted Resolution 22-073 which is A Resolution to Adopt the Report Titled "Landscape Analysis Report for the City of Wilmington."



# WILMINGTON City Council

## THE WILMINGTON CITY COUNCIL 22-MONTH REPORT

is produced by The Wilmington City Council Office

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