

Wilmington, Delaware
January 18, 2024

#0377

Sponsor:

**Council
Member
Darby**

WHEREAS, on July 27, 2022, Governor John C. Carney, Jr. signed Delaware House Bill 422 into law, which amended *Wilm. C. (Charter) § 3-304(b)* to grant the City the authority to determine the residency requirements for its non-elected employees; and

WHEREAS, initial discussions between the Administration and City Council regarding the parameters of the City's residency requirement broke down; and

WHEREAS, in response, the Administration unilaterally determined that House Bill 422 removed the residency requirement altogether; and

WHEREAS, on October 19, 2023, Councilmember Al Mills was set to call for the third and final reading of Revision 2 to Substitute 1 to Ordinance No. 22-035 which, if passed and signed, would remove the City's residency requirement; and

WHEREAS, there was an outpouring of opposition, resulting in almost three hours of public comment against the residency rescission; and

WHEREAS, on October 27, 2023, Council introduced Ordinance 23-040, which established a five-year residency requirement; and

WHEREAS, Council considered Revision 2 to Substitute 2 to Ordinance 23-040 for third and final reading on November 16, 2023; and

WHEREAS, there was full support for this legislation. Again, there was over three hours of public comment, this time supporting the residency requirement; and

WHEREAS, City Council passed Revision to Substitute 2 to Ordinance 23-040, and submitted it to Mayor Michael S. Purzycki, as *Wilm. C. (Charter) § 2-202* requires; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor neither signed nor vetoed the bill. Instead, he allowed it to

become law; and

WHEREAS, in his non-signing statement, the Mayor denigrated his constituents, calling their First Amendment expression “mob rule”; and

WHEREAS, it is inaccurate to call fervent First Amendment advocacy “mob rule”; and

WHEREAS, it is unbecoming for the Mayor to rebuke his constituents in such a manner.

WHEREAS, it is in this spirit that the City Council feels compelled to call out the Mayor’s unprofessional behavior.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WILMINGTON that Council expresses a vote of no confidence in Mayor Michael S. Purzycki for his comments regarding duly passed legislation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Council urges the Administration to work with Council to find compromises when considering controversial legislation.

Passed by City Council,

ATTEST: _____
City Clerk

SYNOPSIS: This Resolution expresses Wilmington City Council’s vote of no confidence in Mayor Michael S. Purzycki for his comments criticizing his constituents for exercising their First Amendment rights.