

**AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 14 OF THE CITY CODE  
PERTAINING TO HISTORIC MARKERS**

#0218

Sponsor:

Council  
Member  
Oliver

WHEREAS, the City Council wishes to update the Historic Makers City Code provisions, and begin the swift installation of Historic Markers;

NOW, THEREFORE, THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WILMINGTON HEREBY

ORDAINS:

SECTION 1: Chapter 14 (“Historic Preservation”) of the City Code is hereby amended by deleting the stricken language and adding in the underlined language as follows:

**Sec. 14-1. – Erection and maintenance of historic markers.**

~~(a) There is hereby established a program to be known as the historic markers program to include points or sites of historic or cultural interest anywhere within the city limits may be selected and designated for historic markers by resolution of city council, approved by a majority of all of the members elected thereto, following a public hearing scheduled by resolution of council and notice of which shall be published in a newspaper of general circulation not less than 15 days prior to the date of such hearing. Such points or sites may be recommended or nominated for such designation by any person or organization in writing to the city council.~~

There is hereby established a program to be known as the Historic Markers Program (hereinafter, for the purposes of Chapter 14 only, the “Program”). The Program will include points or sites of historic or cultural interest anywhere within the City limits, which may be selected and designated for Historic Markers by resolution of City Council, approved by a majority of all of the members elected thereto. The City Council will establish a Subcommittee, to be known as the City Council Subcommittee on the Historic Markers Program (hereinafter, for the purposes of Chapter 14 only, the “Subcommittee”) to identify locations where Historic Markers will be installed. Locations may also be nominated for such designation by any person or organization in writing, to the Subcommittee.

~~(b) The historic markers program shall be supplemental to and coordinated with the program of the bureau of museums of the division of historic and cultural affairs of the department of state.~~

In support of the Program, there is also established a Historic Markers Taskforce (hereinafter, for the purposes of Chapter 14 only, the “Taskforce”), comprised of nine (9) members: three (3) members from City Council, three (3) members from the Mayor’s Office, and three (3) members from the Department of Land Use and Planning. The

President of the City Council will select the City Council's representatives to this Historic Markers Task Force. The Department of Land Use and Planning will be responsible for the installation and upkeep of the Historic Markers.

(c) Historic markers may be placed or located on private property, or on public property, or in the public right-of-way, at locations on or in any of the same, commemorating certain historic events and shall have inscribed thereon suitable inscriptions as may be necessary. If located on private property, the designation of a site and installation of a historic marker shall be done only with, and after receipt by the council of, the written agreement or consent of the owner of such property. If to be located on public property or within a public right-of-way, such designation and installation shall be subject to and in conformance with public safety standards and shall constitute an authorized exception to the provisions regarding encroachments set forth in chapter 42 of this Code, as applicable. Any historic markers may be of cast aluminum or other permanent material similar to those already in use for such purposes.

~~(d) Historic markers may be monuments, tablets or other types of markers as deemed appropriate, and shall be installed, or caused to be installed, and maintained by the department of public works and shall be financed through capital budget funds designated for purposes of the historic markers program.~~

The Taskforce will determine the types of markers to be installed, and which materials will be used for the markers. The Taskforce will also ensure that the City of Wilmington Historic Markers do not duplicate state historical markers in visual appearance, so that the public may not be misled regarding which governmental entity installed the markers. The Program will be financed through the general budget or bond bill.

**SECTION 2:** This Ordinance shall become effective upon its passage by the City Council, and approval by the Mayor.

First Reading.....September 1, 2022  
Second Reading.....September 1, 2022  
Third Reading.....

Passed by City Council,

\_\_\_\_\_  
President of City Council

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk

Approved this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2022.

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Mayor

**SYNOPSIS:** This Ordinance updates the City's Historic Marker Program, including the creation of a City Council Subcommittee to determine the location of historic markers, and the creation of a taskforce to determine the types of markers to be installed, which materials will be used for the markers, and to ensure that the City's historic markers do not duplicate state historical markers in visual appearance.

**Fiscal Impact:** At this time the fiscal impact of the legislation cannot be determined. The City previously installed historical markers between 2015 and 2018, at an average cost of \$3,000 per marker. Given that we do not know at this time how many historical markers will be approved by the Subcommittee on the Historic Markers Program, or the current cost of materials, the fiscal impact of the legislation cannot be determined.