

Wilmington, Delaware
April 4, 2024

#0410

Sponsor:

**Council
Member
Oliver**

Co-Sponsor:

**Council
Member
Johnson**

WHEREAS, House Bill 50, An Act to Amend Title 11 of the Delaware Code Relating to Theft, was introduced into the Delaware House of Representatives in January of 2023 and is on the “Ready List” for a vote. The bill would create a separate offense of mail theft, including packages, from a residential dwelling. Repeated theft offenses, a first-time offense of theft packages with a value over \$1,500, or offenses against a victim over the age of 62, would be classified as a felony offense; and

WHEREAS, under 18 U.S.C. § 1708, mail or package delivered through the U.S. Postal Service carries the potential for fines and prison time up to five years. However, mail and packages delivered through independent carriers, such as FedEx, UPS, and DHL are subject to state laws on package theft; and

WHEREAS, according to the New York Times, 1.7 million packages go missing every day, amounting to \$25 million in loss. One in ten Americans had a package stolen in 2023, but only 10% of package theft victims report their cases to the police; and

WHEREAS, the issue of package theft has garnered national attention. House Resolution 6852, known as the Porch Piracy Act of 2022, was introduced in the United States Congress, and supported by a bi-partisan group of 89 representatives, to counteract thefts related to packages; and

WHEREAS, ten U.S. states have passed legislation making package theft a felony offense, with at least five more states, including Delaware, pending similar legislation; and

WHEREAS, Delaware has the highest package theft larceny rate per 100,000 people, according to Forbes Magazine.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WILMINGTON, that this Legislative body supports the passage of House Bill 50, An Act to Amend Title 11 of the Delaware Code Relating to Theft, in the Delaware General Assembly.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Legislative body acknowledges the need for effective measures to deter and prevent porch piracy and package theft to ensure the security of private property.

Passed by the City Council,

ATTEST: _____
City Clerk

SYNOPSIS: Porch Piracy has garnered national attention as close to one in ten Americans have had a package stolen from them. As package theft from independent carriers follows state law, states are taking the initiative to punish those who steal packages. Delaware has put House Bill 50 on their Ready List to vote. The Council supports the passage of the bill to ensure the security of private property.