

Wilmington, Delaware  
July 3, 2025

**#0080**

**Sponsor:**

**Council  
Member  
Darby**

**WHEREAS**, the Wilmington City Council 2022-2025 Strategic Plan seeks to foster a “Stabilized Wilmington,” as well as a “Transparent and Well-Represented Wilmington,” wherein residents are informed and engaged in public matters; and

**WHEREAS**, on April 17, 2025, the Wilmington City Council adopted Resolution 25-024- A Resolution Requesting a Public Hearing by the Wilmington Neighborhood Conservancy Land Bank (WNCLB) Regarding the Acquisition and Future Development of the Gibraltar Property, which resolved that the WNCLB should make timely and transparent updates related to the Gibraltar property acquisition and adhere to other practices that facilitate transparency; and

**WHEREAS**, in addition to the Gibraltar estate, the public website lists other WNCLB property acquisitions designated as “Reserved,” indicating that they are “NOT available.” These entries do not include details, such as the name of the reserving party, justification for reservation, status of any agreements, pricing, and/or negotiation history; and

**WHEREAS**, the WNCLB has not submitted a written explanation of the internal process used to assign the “Reserved” status to properties in its inventory; and

**WHEREAS**, photographs for all listed or reserved properties have not been uploaded within the mandated 45-day window; and

**WHEREAS**, this failure to comply with some fundamental tenets of transparency, public accountability, and good-faith governance is counterproductive to the public’s trust in the operations of the WNCLB.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WILMINGTON** this Legislative body implores the Wilmington Neighborhood Conservancy Land Bank (WNCLB) to develop a Corrective Action Plan to be submitted to this Council within 15 calendar days of this Resolution's passage.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Corrective Action Plan should include 1) a full timeline for completing all website and documentation updates, 2) a review of the processes of accountability that have hindered compliance with the tenets of transparency heretofore, 3) an evaluation of proactive process improvements to prevent recurrence of future issues, and 4) a clear accountability mechanism for ensuring public transparency going forward.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that no new "Reserved" designations should be implemented until the corrective action plan is received, reviewed, and approved by Wilmington City Council.

Passed by City Council,

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

**SYNOPSIS:** The Wilmington City Council 2022-2025 Strategic Plan seeks to foster a "Stabilized Wilmington," as well as a "Transparent and Well-Represented Wilmington," wherein residents are informed and engaged in public matters. This Resolution identifies concerns with the public transparency and accountability processes of the Wilmington Neighborhood Conservancy Land Bank (WNCLB) and prescribes actionable measures to remediate these concerns.