

Wilmington, Delaware
November 6, 2025

#0129

Sponsor:

**Council
Member
Owens**

WHEREAS, the 2022-2025 Wilmington City Council Strategic Plan prioritizes a “Healthy Wilmington,” where resources are available to address adult, family, and youth homelessness; and

WHEREAS, the number of individuals experiencing homelessness has increased in the past decade in response to the challenges associated with housing affordability and access to mental health resources. From 2024 to 2025, the State’s homeless population increased by 16%; and

WHEREAS, Governor Matthew Meyer and Mayor John Carney have previously issued executive orders to facilitate a coordinated approach to address homelessness and its accompanying impacts on individuals and communities; and

WHEREAS, Mayor John Carney’s first executive order, titled Executive Order 2025-1 Establishment of the City of Wilmington Taskforce on Homelessness, appointed a 12-member Taskforce to submit findings and recommendations “for strategies to better serve the City’s homeless population while minimizing the negative effects of homelessness on neighborhoods and business activities within the City”; and

WHEREAS, in September, the City of Wilmington Taskforce on Homelessness submitted recommendations regarding the improvement and coordination of City services to meet the needs of individuals experiencing homelessness locally; and

WHEREAS, the recommendations submitted by the Taskforce require ongoing deliberation and collaboration to further determine their feasibility and effective policy strategies to facilitate their implementation; and

WHEREAS, the Health, Environmental, Aging and Disabilities (HEAD) Committee is a standing committee of the Wilmington City Council. The HEAD Committee is responsible for addressing quality of life concerns, including adult, child, and family homelessness, as well as social services related to aging, disabilities, public health, mental health services, and substance abuse services. The pressing issues related to homelessness merit special attention to elaborate on the recommendations of the City of Wilmington Taskforce on Homelessness, engage a wider array of stakeholders in the policy dialogue related to homelessness, and coordinate the development of other viable solutions to homelessness that are appropriate to the contexts of the City of Wilmington.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WILMINGTON that this Legislative body establishes the City of Wilmington Homelessness Subcommittee as a subcommittee of the Health, Environmental, Aging and Disabilities (HEAD) Committee, a standing committee of the Wilmington City Council.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Council President shall appoint nine members to this Subcommittee. The Subcommittee shall be composed of Wilmington residents who have experienced homelessness or a demonstrated interest or expertise in homelessness, as well as related individual and societal effects. Residents shall include representation from the councilmanic districts, local businesses, and organizations that assist with unhoused populations. The members shall hold no other public office or paid public employment.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that delegated with the task of expanding on the recommendations put forth by the City of Wilmington Taskforce on Homelessness, including, but not limited to, deliberating on the feasibility of the Taskforce's recommendations, articulating strategies for acting on recommendations that are deemed practicable, and offering

additional considerations for addressing homelessness that meet the needs of the residents of the City of Wilmington.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Subcommittee shall issue to the Health, Environmental, Aging and Disabilities Committee a preliminary report with findings and recommendations within 180 days of the first meeting. The Subcommittee shall issue a final report within 12 months of its first meeting outlining final policy recommendations, including assessments of the feasibility of the report submitted by the City of Wilmington Taskforce on Homelessness, as well as additional recommendations on addressing quality of life concerns for individuals experiencing homelessness and their communities.

Passed by City Council,

ATTEST: _____
City Clerk

SYNOPSIS: The 2022-2025 Wilmington City Council Strategic Plan prioritizes a “Healthy Wilmington,” where resources are available to address adult, family, and youth homelessness. This Resolution establishes the City of Wilmington Homelessness Subcommittee, composed of nine members, as a subcommittee of the Health, Environmental, Aging and Disabilities (HEAD) Committee standing committee. The objectives of the Subcommittee include expanding on the recommendations put forth by the City of Wilmington Taskforce on Homelessness and offering additional considerations for addressing homelessness that meet the needs of the residents of the City of Wilmington.