

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 2 OF THE CITY CODE TO REPEAL THE DEFUNCT WILMINGTON ADVISORY COMMISSION ON YOUTH AND THEIR FAMILIES AND TO ESTABLISH THE WILMINGTON YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL UNDER THE AUSPICES OF CITY COUNCIL

#0127

Sponsor:

**Council
Members
Bracy
Owens**

WHEREAS, in 1994, City Council passed legislation that created the Wilmington Advisory Commission on Youth and Their Families, which included the Wilmington Youth Leadership Commission (“WYLC”), under the Department of Parks and Recreation; and

WHEREAS, WYLC consisted of 35 youth members from grades 9–12, and acted in an advisory capacity to the Mayor, City Council, and the departments and agencies of the City; and

WHEREAS, in its advisory capacity, WYLC assisted the City in its efforts to develop and promote initiatives and programs which addressed the needs of City youth and their families; and

WHEREAS, in or around 2020, Parks and Recreation accepted \$1 million in grant funds from the U.S. Department of Justice to provide funding to for a program known as the Wilmington Youth Leadership Incubator Program (“WYLIP”) for 5 years commencing in Fiscal Year 2020; and

WHEREAS, WYLIP’s focus was to further the DOJ’s mission to reduce crime and promote public safety by providing funding to states and other localities to address juvenile delinquency and improve the juvenile system; and

WHEREAS, the WYLC became defunct in 2019 due to Parks and Recreation’s WYLIP implementation in 2020; and

WHEREAS, WYLIP was funded by federal grants through Fiscal Year 2025;
and

WHEREAS, WYLIP exhausted its funds and no additional funds are available
to continue; and

WHEREAS, City Council desires to establish a Youth Leadership Council
under the auspices of City Council; and

WHEREAS, the primary objective of the Youth Leadership Council will be to
formulate a “Youth Master Plan” that provides a comprehensive vision and plan for the
City’s youth; and

WHEREAS, several cities across the country, including Alexandria, Virginia,
New Orleans, Louisiana, and San Jose, California, have established similar youth
leadership councils to formulate a “Youth Master Plan”; and

WHEREAS, City Council deems it necessary and appropriate to repeal the
Wilmington Youth Leadership Commission as it is defunct and establish the Wilmington
Youth Advisory Council as set forth herein.

**NOW, THEREFORE, THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF
WILMINGTON HEREBY ORDAINS:**

SECTION 1. Chapter 2 of the City Code is hereby amended by repealing
Division 7 (“Wilmington Advisory Commission on Youth and Their Families”) in its
entirety thereof by deleting the stricken language and renumbering the reserved
sections as follows:

**DIVISION 7. - RESERVEDWILMINGTON ADVISORY COMMISSION
ON YOUTH AND THEIR FAMILIES**

~~Sec. 2-131. -- Established; membership.~~

~~(a) There is established a Wilmington Youth Leadership Commission, which will be overseen by the Wilmington Youth Leadership Advisory Council. The membership shall consist of 35 youth members from grades 9 through 12, chosen from the memberships of youth organizations citywide, and they shall serve for one year terms for up to three consecutive years, but they must reapply to serve annually. The Wilmington Youth Leadership Commission shall fall under the auspices of the Wilmington Department of Parks and Recreation.~~

~~There is established a Wilmington Youth Leadership Commission Advisory Council, which will support and guide the membership of the Wilmington Youth Leadership Commission, which will be established at a later time.~~

~~(b) There is established the Wilmington Early Care and Education Council to foster collaboration among existing programs, identify gaps in current service delivery, to apply in its own name for local, state, federal and foundation grants, or any combination of the same, and to enter into agreements with an eligible entity to serve as fiscal agent for administering such grants. The council membership shall consist of 18 individuals, appointed by the mayor with the advice of city council, and shall include one representative of the state office of child care licensing; one representative of the state division of social services; one representative of the family and workplace connection, two representatives of local community agencies, two parents, two representatives of child care providers or centers, one representative each of the office of the mayor and city council, the chairperson of the city council education, youth and family services committee, two representatives of local school districts and at least one representative of the charter school serving the city, two institutions of higher education with programs in early childhood development and one representative of the state office of early care and education.~~

~~Sec. 2-132. -- Purpose and responsibilities.~~

~~The purpose of the Wilmington Youth Leadership Commission is to act in an advisory capacity to the mayor and city council and the departments and agencies of city government and in that capacity assist the city in its efforts to identify the needs of city youth and their families and to assist the city in efforts to develop and promote~~

~~initiatives and programs which will address those needs. The commission to that end shall undertake the following responsibilities:~~

- ~~(1) The commission shall provide advice and direction to the city government regarding issues, concerns and programs that affect city youth and their families.~~
- ~~(2) The commission shall identify the needs of Wilmington youth and will act as an advocate for public and private program initiatives which address their needs.~~
- ~~(3) The commission shall assist the city government in developing a comprehensive plan for programs which provide services for city youth and their families.~~
- ~~(4) The commission shall promote cooperation and coordination between and among local, state and federal agencies which provide services for city youth and their families.~~
- ~~(5) The commission shall assist the city government in providing information about sources of funding for youth and family service programs.~~
- ~~(6) The commission shall support innovative city and neighborhood initiatives and local partnerships in their efforts to promote the interests of city youth and their families.~~

Secs. 2-1332-131-2-140. – Reserved.

SECTION 2. Chapter 2 of the City Code is hereby amended by adding a new Section 2-37 and renumbering the Reserved Sections by deleting the stricken language and adding the underlying language to read as follows:

Sec. 2-37. – Wilmington Youth Advisory Council.

- (a) *Establishment.* There is hereby established a Wilmington Youth Advisory Council, which shall be overseen by the city council. The membership shall consist of twenty (20) youth members, comprised of residents of the city and appointed by the president of city council. The membership shall consist of students in grades 8 through 12, with no more than five (5) students in their senior year of high school. The members shall serve for one (1) year terms for up to three (3) consecutive years, but they must reapply to serve annually. The Youth Advisory Council shall fall under the auspices of the city council.
- (b) *Purpose and Responsibilities.* The Wilmington Youth Advisory Council shall:

 - i.) Assist the city council in preparing a Youth Master Plan, which offers a vision of the future for city youth and which is comprised of the

following: an assessment of the current resources and needs of the city youth; proposed strategies to advance the safety, well-being, and healthy development of children and youth in the city; methods to engage the local community along with governmental, institutional, and citizen organizations to aid in the successful implementation of the Youth Master Plan; methods to evaluate the effectiveness of the Youth Master Plan; and measures to ensure accountability and sustainability of the Youth Master Plan over time.

ii.) Participate in the review and updating of the Youth Master Plan that is to take place every three (3) years.

iii.) Collaborate with the Office of Educational Advocacy as needed.

(c) Rules. The Youth Advisory Council may adopt rules to govern its meetings. If none are adopted, the meetings shall be conducted in accordance with Robert's Rules of Order.

(d) Compensation. Each member shall be paid \$50.00 for attending the entirety of each Youth Advisory Council meeting; provided, however, the total amount paid to any member shall not exceed \$600.00 in any one calendar year.

(e) Funding. Each year, city council shall appropriate the necessary funds for the Youth Advisory Council. The appropriation shall be a line item in the city council's operating budget.

Secs. 2-~~3738~~-2-55. – Reserved.

SECTION 3. This Ordinance shall become effective immediately upon its date of passage by the City Council and approval by the Mayor.

First Reading.....October 16, 2025

Second Reading....October 16, 2025

Third Reading.....

Passed by City Council,

President of City Council

ATTEST: _____

City Clerk

Approved this ____ day of ____, 2025

Mayor

SYNOPSIS: This Ordinance establishes the Wilmington Youth Advisory Council under the auspices of City Council. The primary objective of the Wilmington Youth Advisory Council will be to assist City Council in formulating a Youth Master Plan, the purpose of which is to promote the well-being and advancement of the City's youth. The Ordinance also eliminates the Wilmington Youth Leadership Commission under the Department of Parks and Recreation, as this commission has been defunct since 2019.

FISCAL IMPACT: The Fiscal Impact is expected to be *de minimis*.