

RES25-007

Wilmington, Delaware
March 6, 2025

#0016

Sponsor:

**Council
Member
Oliver**

Co-Sponsors:

**Council
President
Congo**

**Council
Members
Johnson
Hackett
Bracy
Owens**

WHEREAS, in alignment with the Wilmington City Council 2022-2025 Strategic Plan goal of a “Transparent and Well-Represented Wilmington,” it is the venerable duty of this Council to contribute to the preservation and promulgation of the rich history of the City of Wilmington, including that of its Legislative body; and

WHEREAS, the Wilmington City Council Commemorative Wall was commissioned under the tenure of Council President Theodore Blunt in 2008. His unwavering support was integral to the conceptualization of the design and final installation of the structure in early 2009. On November 15, 2018, during the 106th session of the Wilmington City Council, the Commemorative Wall was officially dedicated as an attestation to the men and women who have shaped this great City’s growth, progress, and resilience throughout history. The Wall memorializes the individuals whose collective deliberations have catalyzed the legislative trajectory of this municipality for the posterity; and

WHEREAS, the realization of the Commemorative Wall is but one example of the Honorable Theodore Blunt’s transformational leadership during his 24 years of service as a Council Member, and later Council President. A lifelong educator, his steadfast commitment to education has had continued reverberations for all Wilmingtonians. His institution of citywide college scholarships has facilitated the resources to support the educational aspirations of hundreds of local students. Mr. Blunt’s allegiance to the principles of community empowerment was the impetus for discretionary community funds to be allocated to each Council Member, placing the onus on all members of the Legislative body to extend their engagement in the well-being of constituents beyond these hallowed halls. The Safe Haven

and Extended Hours initiatives at local community centers were adopted as a State model because of their significant impacts on City youths. The after-school programming he spearheaded improved access to positive youth development for countless families; and

WHEREAS in his time on Council, Blunt modeled fiduciary stewardship through his dedicated service on numerous public bodies, including the Finance, Expenditure Review, Bond, and the Audit Committees, the Cablevision Commission, the Board of Pensions and Retirement, the Home Ownership Corporation, Wilmington Economic and Financial Advisory Council (WEFAC), and the Port Authority; and

WHEREAS, the Honorable Theodore Blunt stands as one of the most exemplary leaders in the history of the Council of the City of Wilmington. His legacy is marked not only by his largesse as a decision-maker, but also by the high standards of ethics and morality he instilled in the numerous public servants who had the privilege to serve alongside him.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WILMINGTON that this Legislative body designates the Commemorative Wall located on the first floor of the Louis L. Redding City/County Building as the Theodore Blunt Commemorative Wall as a testament to the extraordinary life, legacy, and invaluable contributions of the Honorable Theodore “Ted” Blunt to the City of Wilmington and the Council of the City of Wilmington. May this Wall remind those who serve of the exceptional standards of commitment set by those who came before us. May it inspire all who look upon it to honor the endowments our past while always rising to the challenge of expanding on these achievements toward a brighter tomorrow.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Legislative body deems it necessary and appropriate that any future structures erected to succeed the Theodore Blunt Commemorative

Wall on the first floor of the Louis L. Redding City/County Building, or any functional equivalent placed elsewhere in the future, bear the name of this great leader in honor of his enduring significance to the history and character of the Council of the Wilmington City.

Passed by City Council,
March 6, 2025

ATTEST: Akira Grenardo
City Clerk

SYNOPSIS: This Resolution designates the Wilmington City Council Commemorative Wall, or any functional equivalent placed elsewhere in the future, to be officially named the Theodore Blunt Commemorative Wall, which is a testament to the extraordinary life, legacy, and invaluable contributions of the late Honorable Theodore "Ted" Blunt.