

**AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 2 OF THE CITY CODE TO DISSOLVE
THE WILMINGTON NEIGHBORHOOD CONSERVANCY LAND BANK
CORPORATION**

#0059

SPONSOR:

**Council
Member
Darby**

WHEREAS, the Wilmington Neighborhood Conservancy Land Bank Corporation (the “Land Bank”) was established in 2015 by Substitute No. 1 to Ordinance No. 15-040 to acquire, manage, and dispose of vacant, abandoned, and tax-delinquent properties, and to support equitable development, affordable housing, and community revitalization;

WHEREAS, in 2016, by Ordinance No. 16-059, the City and the Land Bank entered into a Memorandum of Understanding and an Annual Funding Agreement to ensure the success of the Land Bank’s mission to help the City fight against crime and blight caused by the high number of vacant and abandoned properties in the City; and

WHEREAS, by Substitute No. 1 to Ordinance No. 21-061, Council codified the continued existence of the Land Bank by adding a new Division 19, entitled “Wilmington Neighborhood Conservancy Land Bank Corporation”, under Article III of Chapter 2 of the City Code; and

WHEREAS, the Land Bank has strayed from its initial goal of acquiring, managing, and disposing of vacant, abandoned, and tax-delinquent properties; and

WHEREAS, instead, the Land Bank has become a property-shelter for developers, sheltering mansions like Gibraltar; and

WHEREAS, given how far the Land Bank has strayed from its purpose, City Council finds it prudent to dissolve the Land Bank in its current form.

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

SECTION 1. Chapter 2 (“Administration”), Article III (“Boards, Commissions and Similar Entities”), Division 19 (“Wilmington Neighborhood Conservancy Land Bank Corporation”) of the Wilmington City Code is hereby deleted in its entirety.

SECTION 2. Pursuant to City Council’s authority granted by 31 *Del. C.* § 4716(b), the Land Bank is hereby ordered to begin dissolution proceedings no sooner than 60 days from the enactment of this Ordinance. The Land Bank shall publish notice of the dissolution in a local newspaper of general circulation. The Land Bank also shall provide notice of dissolution to any and all trustees of any and all outstanding bonds of the Land Bank.

SECTION 3. This Ordinance shall become effective immediately upon its date of passage by the City Council and approval by the Mayor, with dissolution to begin sixty (60) days thereafter.

First Reading.....June 5, 2025

Second Reading....June 5, 2025

Third Reading.....

Passed by City Council,

President of City Council

ATTEST:

City Clerk

Approved this _____ day of _____, 2025

Mayor

SYNOPSIS: This Ordinance dissolves the Wilmington Neighborhood Conservancy Land Bank to begin dissolution proceedings, as outlined by 31 *Del. C.* § 4716(b).

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT: The fiscal impact is unknown at this time but is expected to be *de minimis*, as the Land Bank Board serves without pay.