

Wilmington, Delaware  
July 3, 2025

**#0078**

**Sponsor:**

**Council  
Member  
Darby**

**WHEREAS**, the City of Wilmington and State of Delaware are committed to public safety, offender rehabilitation, and community well-being; and

**WHEREAS**, concerns have been raised regarding the location, zoning, and oversight of halfway houses and group homes for registered sex offenders, particularly their proximity to schools, childcare facilities, and residential neighborhoods; and

**WHEREAS**, current state and municipal zoning laws, residency restrictions, and regulatory oversight may not sufficiently balance the needs of public safety, rehabilitation, and community stability; and

**WHEREAS**, the issue of housing for individuals with criminal backgrounds, including sex offenders, requires a comprehensive, evidence-based approach that includes input from law enforcement, social services agencies, urban planners, housing advocates, and community members; and

**WHEREAS**, similar concerns have been raised in other municipalities, and best practices from other jurisdictions should be examined and adapted to address Wilmington's unique needs.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WILMINGTON** that a Reintegration Subcommittee shall be established and serve as a subcommittee of the Community Development and Urban Planning Committee.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Community Development and Urban Planning Committee shall appoint nine (9) members to this Subcommittee. The Subcommittee shall be composed of Wilmington residents who have demonstrated an interest

or expertise in reintegration and/or zoning. The members shall hold no other public office or paid public employment.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Subcommittee shall meet monthly with additional meetings as it deems necessary to properly perform its duties. All meetings must adhere to FOIA guidelines.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Subcommittee shall do the following:

- Conduct a comprehensive review of existing zoning laws, state statutes, and municipal ordinances governing the placement and operation of halfway houses and sex offender group homes.
- Evaluate best practices from other states regarding housing regulations for sex offenders and reentry programs.
- Assess the public safety impact of existing regulations and whether current restrictions are effective in reducing recidivism and improving rehabilitation outcomes.
- Develop legislative recommendations to ensure that group homes and halfway houses do not compromise community safety while still providing necessary rehabilitation services.
- Engage with community stakeholders, law enforcement, urban planners, and housing experts through public hearings and community forums.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT** that the Subcommittee shall hold its first meeting within 60 days of this Resolution's passing. The Subcommittee shall issue to City Council a preliminary report with findings and recommendations within 180 days of first meeting. The

Subcommittee shall issue a final report within twelve (12) months of its first meeting outlining policy recommendations, which may include new zoning laws, enhanced monitoring, residency restrictions, or improved reentry support programs.

Passed by City Council,

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

**SYNOPSIS:** This Resolution establishes a Reintegration Subcommittee to serve as a subcommittee of the Community Development and Urban Planning Committee.

**FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT:** There is no negative fiscal impact to the City.