

Wilmington, Delaware
October 2, 2025

#0116

Sponsor:

Council
Member
Darby

WHEREAS, Wilmington City Council recognizes the importance of transparency, accountability, and direct participation in its legislative and policymaking functions; and

WHEREAS, attendance and voting in person during Council meetings promotes public trust and strengthens deliberative processes; and

WHEREAS, it is understood that, in certain cases, Councilmembers may be unable to attend meeting in person due to legitimate medical or disability-related issues or official city-related travel purposes; and

WHEREAS, Council desires to establish clear guidelines for when remote voting is permitted and ensure appropriate documentation is submitted for any exemptions.

WHEREAS, in light of the foregoing, City Council deems it necessary and appropriate to amend City Council Rule 3 to ensure accountability for members of Council who choose to attend virtually.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WILMINGTON that Rule 3 of the City Council Rules is hereby amended by deleting the stricken language and adding the underlined language to read as follows:

RULE 3 - CONVENING OF CITY COUNCIL

At the scheduled time for the meeting, the President of City Council shall call the City Council to order.

When Council convenes, each Council Member shall be physically present in Council Chambers in the seat assigned to that Member or shall appear virtually with permission of the President. Members may attend and vote virtually only under the following circumstances: (1) a medical or disability-related exemption, as a reasonable accommodation under 29 Del. C. § 10006A; or (2) City-paid approved travel—the Councilmember is traveling on official City business paid for or approved by the City. ~~A Councilmember's ability to appear virtually, absent a reasonable accommodation~~

~~pursuant to 29 Del. C. § 10006A, is at the discretion of the President and may be revoked for failure to participate fully in Council meetings.~~ Any Council Member seeking an exemption must submit appropriate documentation to the Council President or his designee. Acceptable documentation may include a letter from a medical provider or certification of disability or an official travel itinerary or authorization confirming city-paid or approved travel. Councilmembers may submit documentation in an online form capturing the reason for their virtual attendance.

At the beginning of each Council Meeting, the City Clerk shall identify which Council Members are attending virtually and the reason for their virtual participation.

Failure to comply may result in the invalidation of a remote vote.

No Council Member shall be absent from the service of City Council without leave.

The attendance of at least seven (7) Council Members is required to establish quorum for official meetings of City Council.

When a quorum is not present on the initial roll call, Council shall consider only the following motions: to fix a time to which to adjourn; to adjourn; to recess; to secure attendance of absent members; or to proceed as if in Committee of the Whole for the purpose of considering informally and reporting to the Council upon any matter on the agenda.

Passed by City Council,

ATTEST: _____
City Clerk

SYNOPSIS: This Resolution amends City Council Rule 3 to require in-person attendance and voting. It requires members seeking to attend virtually to provide appropriate documentation to the Council President or his designee. The President shall identify Council Members who attend virtually and provide a reason for their virtual attendance. Failure to comply will render their vote null and void.