

Wilmington, Delaware
December 11, 2025

#0153

Sponsor:

**Council
Member
Darby**

WHEREAS, the Plummer Community Corrections Center (“Plummer Center”) in Wilmington, Delaware serves as an essential facility within the State’s correctional system, providing supervision, transitional services, and reentry support for individuals with Level 4 offenses to rebuild their lives in the Wilmington community; and

WHEREAS, the Plummer Center plays a vital role in reducing recidivism by offering structured programming, employment assistance, counseling, treatment resources, and opportunities for reintegration that promote stability and self-sufficiency. As the most populated city in Delaware, Wilmington and the surrounding communities rely on the Plummer Center as a critical resource for coordinated reentry planning, supporting both individuals transitioning back into society as well as the families and neighborhoods receiving them; and

WHEREAS, extensive research demonstrates that community corrections, such as those provided at the Plummer Center, significantly reduce recidivism by supporting stable transitions, offering accountability in a less restrictive setting, connecting individuals to meaningful rehabilitative opportunities, and bolstering community ties of individuals who have been previously incarcerated; and

WHEREAS, maintaining strong family and community relations is one of the most important predictors of successful reentry. The Plummer Center’s location in Wilmington allows residents to remain close to their families, support networks, potential employers, and community resources, thereby improving their likelihood of long-term stability; and

WHEREAS, formerly incarcerated individuals face substantial challenges to accessing gainful employment, affordable housing, and reliable transportation. The closure or reduction

of services at the Plummer Community Corrections Center would limit access to crucial supports, increase barriers to reentry, and place additional burdens on individuals who may be relocated farther from their families and communities, conditions known to undermine successful rehabilitation; and

WHEREAS, numerous members of the Wilmington community with connections to the Plummer Center have attested to its vital role in preparing them or those close to them to rebuild stable lives locally, preserving and investing in facilities like the Plummer Center aligns with Delaware’s commitment to evidence-based correctional practices, enhances public safety, reduces overcrowding in higher-security institutions, and supports the humane and effective reintegration of returning citizens; and

WHEREAS, determining whether closing the Plummer Center is financially justified requires full transparency, including a full budget line-item audit of all Department of Corrections (DOC) expenditures and revenue sources including “welfare funds” and commissary fees, as well as a statewide review of all underutilized DOC facilities following the COVID-19 pandemic, and an evaluation of the financial and human impacts of downstate versus Wilmington placements, all of which are necessary to assess potential consolidation options other than the Plummer Center; and

WHEREAS, any resulting cost savings identified through these analyses should be reinvested into re-entry supports, such as strengthening the Plummer Center, improving work release, increasing job placement and training, and programs that support stronger family connections and successful reintegration.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WILMINGTON that this Council respectfully urges the Governor of the State of Delaware to

take all necessary steps to ensure that the Plummer Community Corrections Center in Wilmington remains open, fully operational, and adequately supported so that it may continue providing the community-based services, family-centered access, and reentry assistance essential to reducing recidivism and strengthening Delaware communities.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Council requests that Governor Meyer pause all closure-related actions, issue orders to return recently transferred Wilmington residents to their previous placements at the Plummer Center, and suspend any pending transfers from the facility until Wilmington residents and stakeholders have been fully engaged in a transparent decision-making process.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, given the potential impacts of the closure of the Plummer Center, this Council recommends that Governor Meyer, along with key personnel, tour the facility, conduct a full budget line-item audit of DOC expenditures, explore opportunities to consolidate other facilities, and hold public listening sessions before making a final determination regarding the continued operation of this critical community resource.

Passed by City Council,

ATTEST: _____
City Clerk

SYNOPSIS: This Resolution respectfully urges the Governor of the State of Delaware to take all necessary steps to ensure that the Plummer Community Corrections Center in Wilmington remains open, fully operational, and adequately supported so that it may continue providing the community-based services, family-centered access, and reentry assistance essential to reducing recidivism and strengthening Delaware communities.