

**AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 44 OF THE CITY CODE TO
EXTEND THE DURATION OF THE WILMINGTON DOWNTOWN
BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT**

#0245

Sponsor:

**Council
Member
Harlee**

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 44-153 of the City Code, the Mayor and City Council established the Wilmington Downtown Business Improvement District (the “WDBID”) to revitalize the City’s downtown commercial district by providing enhanced municipal services without the expenditure of public funds; and

WHEREAS, the WDBID had an initial duration of five (5) years, which expired on October 1, 1999; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and City Council have approved two (2) extensions of the WDBID, the last of which extends its duration until October 1, 2029; and

WHEREAS, Downtown Visions has requested for the WDBID to be extended for ten (10) additional years until October 1, 2039, which the Mayor supports; and

WHEREAS, City Council deems it necessary and appropriate to amend Section 44-153 of the City Code to extend the WDBID for an additional ten-year period to expire on October 1, 2039.

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

SECTION 1. Chapter 44 of the City Code is hereby amended by amending Section 44-153 thereof by deleting the stricken language and adding the underlined language to read as follows:

**Sec. 44-153. - Establishment of the Wilmington Downtown
Business Improvement District.**

(d) *Duration of WDBID.* The WDBID shall ~~exist until October 1, 2039, have an initial duration of existence of five years, unless extended by ordinance for a longer duration prior to the expiration of the initial five years. The initial five-year term of existence of the WDBID, which expired on October 1, 1999, was extended ten years from that date and will expire on October 1, 2009. That ten-year term is hereby extended and will expire on October 1, 2029.~~

SECTION 2. This Ordinance shall be effective upon its passage by City Council and approval by the Mayor.

First Reading June 4, 2026
Second Reading June 4, 2026
Third Reading

Passed by City Council,

President of City Council

ATTEST: _____
City Clerk

Approved as to form this 3rd
day of June, 2026.

Elizabeth D. Power
Senior Assistant City Solicitor

Approved this ____ day of _____, 2026.

Mayor

SYNOPSIS: This Ordinance amends Section 44-153 of the City Code to extend the duration of the Wilmington Downtown Business Improvement District until October 1, 2039. In addition, as a housekeeping matter, it deletes superfluous language.

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT: The Office of Management and Budget has reviewed and analyzed this Ordinance and the relevant sections of the City Code. This Ordinance amends Section 44-153 of the City Code to extend the Wilmington Downtown Business Improvement District (the “WDBID”) until October 1, 2039. The WDBID is currently authorized through October 1, 2029, so this Ordinance would continue the district for an additional ten years after that.

No direct fiscal impact to the City’s General Fund is anticipated because the WDBID is not funded through the City’s regular operating budget. Instead, it is funded through payments collected from special assessments charged to qualifying properties within the district. Those payments are dedicated to WDBID purposes and are not General Fund revenue. As a result, no direct increase or decrease in General Fund revenue is anticipated.

Revenue from the special assessment payments is used to provide enhanced downtown services, including cleaning, sanitation, public safety-related services, maintenance, promotional activities, and other efforts that support a safer, cleaner, and more attractive district. Because these services are funded through the WDBID rather than City appropriations, this Ordinance will not require additional General Fund spending.

The City will have to continue to provide limited administrative support such as providing property assessment information, receiving and reviewing required reports, and assisting with the collection of delinquent assessments in the same manner as delinquent City property taxes. These responsibilities are expected to be handled within the existing resources of the Finance Department.

Continuing the WDBID may provide indirect long-term benefits if the enhanced services help support downtown business activity, occupancy, property values, or other economic activity. However, these indirect future benefits cannot be directly determined at this time.

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