

Wilmington, Delaware  
October 15, 2026

#xxxx

**WHEREAS**, Wilmington City Council, by Resolution No. 20-080, established *the City*

**Sponsor:**

*Council Taskforce to Study and Develop Reparation Proposals for African Americans, with*

**Council  
Member  
Darby**

*Special Consideration for African Americans who are Descendants of Persons Enslaved in  
the United States*, hereinafter referred to as the Reparations Taskforce; and

**WHEREAS**, on April 25, 2024, City Council adopted Resolution 24-025, formally accepting the Final Report of the Reparations Taskforce. The report documented historical and ongoing harms to African Americans and identified four (4) major areas of inequity: Education, Housing and Economics, Health and Environment, and Legal and Civil Rights; and

**WHEREAS**, the Final Report included recommendations requiring legislative action, intergovernmental coordination, budgetary commitment, and sustained oversight by the Council of the City of Wilmington; and

**WHEREAS**, City Council has the authority to establish standing or special committees or subcommittees to carry out its legislative, oversight, and policy responsibilities. Resolution 26-043 established the Permanent Reparations Implementation and Oversight Committee as a Subcommittee affiliated with the Intergovernmental Committee, a standing committee of the Wilmington City Council; and

**WHEREAS**, this Resolution amends the name of the Permanent Reparations Implementation and Oversight Committee established in Resolution 26-043 to the Reparations Implementation and Oversight Subcommittee to clarify that it is a Subcommittee of the Intergovernmental Committee; and

**WHEREAS**, in the interests of meaningful community representation and participation in the implementation of the recommendations contained in the Final Report of the Reparations Taskforce, this Resolution amends the composition of the Subcommittee from “five (5) City Council members” to seven (7) members of the public appointed by the President of City Council. Members selected to serve shall meet one (1) or more of the following criteria:

- Possess experience or demonstrated expertise in reparative justice, public policy, law, education, housing, public health, economics, genealogy, history, or community organizing;
- Serve as community elders and/or culture bearers;
- Reside in a historically Black neighborhood;
- Demonstrate commitment to racial justice, equity, and community accountability.

No less than four (4) members shall be residents of the City of Wilmington; and

**WHEREAS**, three (3) of the initial appointees shall be for a one (1) -year term and four (4) of the initial appointees shall be for a two (2) -year term. Following these initial appointments, all subsequent members shall serve two (2) -year staggered terms; and

**WHEREAS**, the members of the Subcommittee shall select a Chair, Vice Chair, and notetaker from among themselves to facilitate the proper functioning of the Subcommittee, including, but not limited to, the timely submission of meeting agendas and minutes; maintaining compliance with established timelines, as well as federal, state, and local statutes, including the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) and State of Delaware laws governing open meetings; and composing a final report according to the guidelines established by Resolution 26-043; and

**WHEREAS**, the Subcommittee shall establish bylaws to govern its operations, including, but not limited to, defining the roles and responsibilities of the Chair, Vice Chair, and respective members; procedures regarding vacancies among its membership; and other matters necessary for the administration of the Subcommittee; and

**WHEREAS**, the Subcommittee shall do the following:

- Request reports, data, and testimony from City departments, boards, and commissions; and
- Conduct public hearings and community listening sessions; and
- Review and make recommendations on proposed budgets, contracts, and policies related to reparations and racial equity; and
- Propose legislation to enact recommendations listed in the Final Report and further the theme of racial equity; and
- Issue written findings and policy recommendations to the full City Council; and
- Track progress and barriers related to reparations implementation; and

**WHEREAS**, such duties require submitting requests for relevant reports and documentation, conducting public hearings and community engagement sessions, and other investigative and collaborative functions. This Resolution amends the meetings of the Subcommittee from monthly to quarterly, with additional meetings as necessary, to allow the members adequate time for the receipt and processing of information prior to meeting; and

**WHEREAS**, the Subcommittee shall hold its first meeting within 60 days of the appointment of its membership. The Subcommittee shall issue to the Intergovernmental standing committee a preliminary six-month report detailing: actions taken, progress of implementing the goals set forth by the Final Report of the Reparations Taskforce, outstanding

barriers, and legislative or budgetary recommendations. The Subcommittee shall issue an annual public report to the Intergovernmental Committee and the members of City Council.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WILMINGTON** that the Permanent Reparations Implementation & Oversight Committee established by Resolution 26-043 shall be known as the Reparations Implementation & Oversight Subcommittee of the Intergovernmental Committee.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the membership shall consist of seven (7) members of the public appointed by the President of City Council.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the members of the Subcommittee shall meet quarterly; conduct all meetings in compliance with the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), State of Delaware laws governing open meetings, and all other relevant statutes; and adhere to the reporting requirements set forth herein.

Passed by City Council,

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

**SYNOPSIS:** This Resolution amends Resolution 26-043 by changing the name of the Permanent Reparations Implementation and Oversight Committee to the Reparations Implementation and Oversight Subcommittee to clarify that it is a Subcommittee of Council's Intergovernmental standing committee. This Resolution also amends the Subcommittee membership from five (5) City Council members to seven (7) members of the public appointed by the Council President to strengthen community representation and participation and includes provisions for two-year staggered terms for members serving on the Subcommittee.

This Resolution amends Resolution 26-043 from monthly to quarterly meetings, with additional meetings as necessary, and to provide members adequate time to gather, receive, and review information between meetings. The Resolution further amends Resolution 26-043 to allow for the submission of a preliminary report within six (6) months, as opposed to quarterly, and requires that the Subcommittee provide a public report to the Intergovernmental Committee and the members of Council annually.

**FISCAL IMPACT:** This legislation requires the Reparations Subcommittee to meet at least quarterly, produce a preliminary report within 6 months, and a final report within one calendar year.

Quarterly meetings of one to two hours duration would require three to four hours of preparation prior to meetings to:

- Confirm a meeting location
- Communicate with Subcommittee members on agenda items
- Meet agenda posting deadlines
- Coordinate with any presenters
- Provide meeting materials, including previous meeting minutes for review
- Secure a quorum

Reparations Subcommittee meetings would require light to moderate technical assistance to:

- Operate the virtual platforms
- Ensure that FOIA (Freedom of Information Act) and State of Delaware Open Meeting laws are followed
- Ensure that meeting minutes include all necessary information and are provided to the Clerk for the official record-keeping
- Document any action steps planned by the Subcommittee
- Production of a preliminary and final report may require technical writing and/or research assistance.

The fiscal impact of the Reparations Implementation & Oversight Subcommittee is estimated at a maximum of \$500 per quarterly meeting for project management services, not to exceed \$2,000 annually.