Wilmington, Delaware
November 5, 2026

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Sponsor:

Council Member Oliver

WHEREAS, July 4, 2026 marked the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. In commemoration of this milestone in our national history, the United States Congress established the America250 initiative to facilitate programming, events, partnerships, and other opportunities to highlight our country's past, reflect on our progress, and inspire dialogue about the future of our society; and

WHEREAS, in support of coordination with the America250 initiative and the statewide commemoration effort, led by the Delaware 250 organization, the 109th Session of the Council of the City of Wilmington adopted Resolution 25-006, *A Resolution Encouraging the Administration to Organize a Wilmington 250 Initiative in Honor of Independence Day*, in 2025 recommending the establishment of a Wilmington 250 initiative to showcase our City's distinct character and "roles in shaping our national trajectory throughout the 250-year journey"; and

WHEREAS, with the coordination of the Wilmington 250 Committee, the year 2026 began with a Citywide Toast, and featured numerous commemorative events, including Mayor John Carney's Budget Address in Old Town Hall, the installation of a mural on Concord Avenue, a "Rumble in Rodney" boxing match, and a Fourth of July celebration at the Wilmington Riverfront brought residents and visitors together in observance of the semiquincentennial; and

WHEREAS, it is the solemn duty of the members of the Council of the City of Wilmington to foster a prosperous, thriving municipality and to safeguard its rich history and heritage for the benefit of future generations. The city now known as Wilmington, Delaware

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is the ancestral home of the Lenape people. Over more than three centuries, its civic, cultural, economic, and industrial character has changed substantially. The observance of the 250th national Independence Day in America's "First State" has added new narratives to Wilmington's long and storied history; and

WHEREAS, the Wilmington 250 celebration has been a period of reflection on our City's past that underscores the importance of documenting aspects of contemporary life for future reference. It is fitting to conclude this year with a time capsule that includes photographs, documents, and mementos that provide a snapshot of life in Wilmington, Delaware in the year 2026.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WILMINGTON that this Council deems it necessary and appropriate to conclude Wilmington's commemoration of the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence by preserving artifacts from this momentous occasion for future generations in the form of a time capsule containing pictures, documents, reflections, and other memorabilia submitted by the Office of the Mayor, this Council, and various City departments to capture stories and sentiments that defined the year 2026.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the time capsule be sealed and placed on display with the Theodore Blunt Commemorative Wall along with instructions designating that it be opened in the year 2076 on the 300th anniversary of American independence, unless circumstances beyond the City's reasonable control require a different date or procedure.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that neither the renovation, replacement, relocation, nor change in ownership or use of any building or facility shall be construed as authorization to discard, permanently separate, or otherwise dispose of the time capsule or its contents. Should

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the building, structure, property, or facility in which the Commemorative Wall is located be renovated, reconstructed, repurposed, demolished, replaced, or relocated at any time before the scheduled opening of the time capsule, the City shall take all reasonable and appropriate measures to relocate the intact time capsule together with the Commemorative Wall.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Resolution shall serve as a permanent record identifying the location of the time capsule, the date of its placement, its intended purpose, and stipulating that it be opened and its contents made available for public viewing in the year 2076.

Passed by City Council,

ATTEST:_____
City Clerk

SYNOPSIS: This Resolution concludes the City of Wilmington's 250th commemoration of the signing of the Declaration of Independence by establishing a time capsule. The time capsule will contain photographs, documents, reflections, and other memorabilia submitted by the Office of the Mayor, City Council, and City departments, preserving a record of the City during this historic milestone for future generations. The Resolution further resolves that the time capsule be sealed and placed with the Theodore Blunt Commemorative Wall, with instructions that it be opened in 2076 in observance of the 300th anniversary of American independence. The Resolution further resolves that the time capsule remains with the Commemorative Wall and be relocated intact with the Wall if the building or facility is renovated, reconstructed, repurposed, demolished, replaced, or relocated prior to its scheduled opening.

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT: De minimis. The advertising and marketing of the time capsule would leverage existing resources and staffing. An airtight, water-sealed container would be necessary to preserve the integrity of materials stored in the time capsule until the capsule is opened in 2076.

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