Wilmington, Delaware
April 2, 2026

#xxxx

Sponsor:

**Council
Member
Darby**

WHEREAS, as the largest municipality in the State of Delaware, the City of Wilmington must confront a wide array of operational and social issues. Improving infrastructure, public safety, economic development, parks and recreation, housing, environmental sustainability, and essential public services are of paramount importance; and

WHEREAS, our City's departmental budgets and personnel are primarily structured to deliver day-to-day services. Many lack the dedicated capacity to consistently research, prepare, and manage competitive grant applications without impacting operational effectiveness. Without sufficient financial resources, these departments also face substantial limitations on the extent to which they can enhance initiatives that have been proven to be effective or develop innovative approaches to better serve community needs; and

WHEREAS, federal, state, and private grant programs collectively distribute billions of dollars annually to municipalities for infrastructure improvements, public safety initiatives, environmental sustainability projects, housing, transportation, workforce development, public health, and community revitalization efforts. Such programs represent opportunities to support and scale existing initiatives or advance innovative approaches to public service provision; and

WHEREAS, the identification, preparation, submission, and administration of grant applications require specialized expertise and dedicated time. City departments have varying administrative capacities to develop viable funding appeals. Substantial grant awards are highly competitive, complex, and often time-sensitive, requiring specialized knowledge of eligibility requirements, regulatory compliance, technical writing, data analysis, budgeting, and performance measurement; and

WHEREAS, a qualified professional grant writer, acting either as a part-time employee or contracted consultant, could provide the requisite knowledge of the funding landscape and coordinate departmental efforts to articulate local needs, prepare high-quality and competitive applications, coordinate interdepartmental data collection, and ensure timely submission of proposals; and

WHEREAS, a professional grant writer would strengthen the City's ability to develop long-term funding strategies, cultivate relationships with funding agencies, monitor upcoming grant cycles, and position Wilmington to respond quickly to emerging funding opportunities. The successful acquisition of grant funds will consequently improve the City's ability to diversify its revenue portfolio beyond conventional sources, such as property tax; and

WHEREAS, engaging a professional grant writer under the auspices of the City Council would foster transparency, interdepartmental collaboration, and streamline the process of obtaining legislative approval of grant applications.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WILMINGTON that this Council recommends that the City of Wilmington include $60,000 of budget appropriations in the Fiscal Year 2027 budget to commission a professional grant writer.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Council affirms its commitment to supporting the City of Wilmington's Administration, and respective departments, in proactively pursuing viable external funding opportunities that strengthen municipal services, enhance fiscal sustainability, and advance the long-term interests of the residents of Wilmington.

Passed by City Council,

ATTEST:_____
                    City Clerk

SYNOPSIS: This Resolution recommends that the City of Wilmington include $60,000 of budget appropriations in the Fiscal Year 2027 budget to commission a professional grant writer. A qualified professional grant writer, acting either as a part-time employee or contracted consultant, would proactively bolster Wilmington's capacity to pursue viable external funding opportunities that strengthen municipal services, enhance fiscal sustainability, and advance the long-term interests of the residents of Wilmington.