

Wilmington, Delaware
February 19, 2026

#0190

WHEREAS, in 2025 alone, an estimated 104 million packages were stolen from

Sponsor:

porches throughout the United States, resulting in estimated losses to consumers of \$15

**Council
Member
Oliver**

billion and \$22 billion in losses to retailers; and

WHEREAS, it is estimated that only 12% of victims of package thefts (or “porch piracy”) actually report the crime to local law enforcement, and only 4% of the victims’ packages are ever recovered; and

WHEREAS, apartment complexes and dense housing areas are especially prone to package theft due to the ability of the perpetrators (or “porch pirates”) to see packages from the street, blend in with local residents and delivery personnel, and readily access front doors within a short walking distance; and

WHEREAS, porch piracy has significant impacts on vulnerable communities that rely on private carriers to deliver vital resources, such as prescriptions, medical supplies, or other products that are inaccessible locally. A 2023 survey by the Alliance for Safe Online Pharmacies (ASOP Global) Foundation found that 52% of respondents had purchased medication online for themselves or someone in their care; and

WHEREAS, based on recent data from the FBI, Delaware is 1 of the 3 worst states for porch piracy; and

WHEREAS, under federal law (18 U.S.C. § 1708), only mail or packages delivered by the United States Postal Service (“USPS”) are subject to fines and prison time up to 5 years; and

WHEREAS, packages delivered by private carriers (e.g., Amazon Prime, United Parcel Service, FedEx, and DHL) are equally, if not more, vulnerable to porch piracy, yet this crime is generally treated as petty theft under the laws of most states; and

WHEREAS, in recent years, 11 states and the District of Columbia adopted measures to elevate this crime to a felony, and several other states, including Delaware, have or are considering measures to similarly reclassify package theft to a felony offense; and

WHEREAS, in 2023, concerns with porch piracy in Delaware prompted the introduction of House Bill 50 (“HB 50”), An Act to Amend Title 11 of the Delaware Code Relating to Theft, to create a separate offense for the theft of mail, including packages delivered by private carriers, from a residential dwelling; and

WHEREAS, although HB 50 was found to be agreeable and was released by the Public Safety & Homeland Security Committee, it was not brought to final vote by the General Assembly before the end of its 152nd Session (2023-2024) and thus did not become law; and

WHEREAS, the national attention garnered by porch piracy (nearly half of all Americans have been victims of porch pirates) also led to the introduction of House Resolution 6924, known as the Porch Pirates Act of 2025, by the U.S. House of Representatives, which makes stealing a package delivered by a private carrier a federal crime; and

WHEREAS, notwithstanding the recent introduction of House Resolution 6924, City Council believes the passage of state law similar to that of HB50, is still necessary

to address porch piracy as it would enable state and local authorities to enforce this widespread crime.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WILMINGTON, City Council recognizes the continued need for effective measures to deter and punish package theft to ensure the security of private property.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, City Council urges the Delaware General Assembly to enact legislation similar to that of HB 50 to address the devastating impact of package thefts upon retailers, carriers, and consumers alike. A clean bill similar to HB 50 is attached.

Passed by City Council,

ATTEST: _____
City Clerk

SYNOPSIS: Porch piracy has garnered national attention as nearly half of all Americans have had a package stolen from them. The General Assembly (152nd Session) previously introduced legislation (House Bill 50) to counteract package theft from private carriers but did not consider the bill for a final vote. This resolution recommends the current General Assembly session to introduce, and pass, legislation similar to previously introduced House Bill 50.