

Wilmington, Delaware  
April 2, 2026

#0214

**Sponsor:**

**Council  
Member  
Harlee**

**WHEREAS**, the Wilmington City Council is entrusted with serving the residents of the City of Wilmington and advancing the public good through thoughtful deliberation, collaboration, and transparent governance. Elected officials and public servants have a responsibility to model respectful behavior, ethical conduct, and accountability in both official proceedings and public interactions; and

**WHEREAS**, civil discourse, mutual respect, and professionalism are essential to maintaining public trust in local government and to ensuring that diverse viewpoints may be expressed, heard, and considered constructively. A shared commitment to civility supports a workplace and public forum free from harassment, intimidation, and personal attacks, and promotes effective decision-making on behalf of Wilmington residents; and

**WHEREAS**, the members of the Council of the City of Wilmington took a solemn oath to “always to place the public interest above any special or personal interests, and to respect the right of future generations to share the rich historic and natural heritage of Delaware.” Disagreement and debate are inherent and necessary elements of democratic governance, but such divergence should be conducted in a manner that is courteous, inclusive, and focused on the well-being of the residents of the City of Wilmington rather than sentiments towards individuals; and

**WHEREAS**, in a climate of divisive political rhetoric, maintaining decorum in the conduct of City affairs safeguards the democratic process, ensuring that supporting and opposing views are heard and considered in a manner conducive to improving the quality of life for both residents and visitors of the City of Wilmington.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WILMINGTON** that this Legislative body affirms its commitment to civility, mutual respect, and professionalism in all official duties, meetings, communications, and interactions with fellow council members, city employees, constituents, and the public.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that this Legislative body shall endeavor to demonstrate leadership by modeling appropriate conduct, including, but not limited to, engaging in respectful dialogue, listening actively to differing perspectives, and conducting debates in a manner that upholds the dignity of the office and the democratic process. This commitment to civility shall apply regardless of political affiliation, personal belief, or position on any matter before Council.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that this Legislative body encourages all boards, commissions, employees, and residents of the City of Wilmington to similarly promote respectful and constructive civic engagement.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that this Resolution is not intended to limit lawful free speech or robust debate on matters of public concern, but rather to affirm shared values that strengthen public trust and effective governance.

Passed by City Council,

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

**SYNOPSIS:** This Resolution affirms the Wilmington City Council’s commitment to civility, mutual respect, and professionalism in all official duties, meetings, communications, and interactions with fellow council members, city employees, constituents, and the public.