 # 0309

Sponsor:

Council Member Bracy

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 2 OF THE CITY CODE RELATING TO THE MEMBERSHIP AND TERM LIMITS OF THE YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL

WHEREAS, City Council established a Youth Advisory Council under the auspices of City Council in 2025; and

WHEREAS, after a year of experience with this program, it has been recommended that the Youth Advisory Council will benefit from expanding eligibility to allow students who live outside city limits to participate; and

WHEREAS, it has also been recommended that the Youth Advisory Council revisit the current three-consecutive-year time limit to allow students to participate in the program for a longer period of time; and

WHEREAS, City Council deems it necessary and appropriate to amend the Code sections regarding the Youth Advisory Council to extend student eligibility and revisit the current three-consecutive-year limit.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WILMINGTON HEREBY ORDAINS:

SECTION 1. Section 2-37 of the Wilmington City Code is amended by adding the underlined language:

Section 2-37(a) Establishment.

(a) There is hereby established a Wilmington Youth Advisory Council, which shall be overseen by the city council. The membership shall consist of 20 youth members, comprised of residents of the city, as well as students who live outside city limits but who attend a school located within Wilmington city limits, and appointed by the president of city council. The membership shall consist of students in grades eight through 12, with no more than five students in their senior year of high

school. The members shall serve for one-year terms for up to three consecutive years, but they must reapply to serve annually. Students who begin their participation in 8th grade may continue to participate through their 12th grade year, provided they reapply to serve annually. The Youth Advisory Council shall fall under the auspices of the city council.

SECTION 2. This Ordinance shall become effective immediately upon its date of passage by the City Council and approval by the Mayor.

First Reading .....November 5, 2026
Second Reading .....November 5, 2026
Third Reading .....

Passed by City Council,

_____
President of City Council

ATTEST: _____
City Clerk

Approved as to form this 28th
day of October 2026.

_____
Assistant City Solicitor

Approved this ____ day of _____, 2026.

_____
Mayor

SYNOPSIS: This Ordinance amends Chapter 2 of the City Code regarding the Youth Advisory Council to expand eligibility to include students who attend a school located within Wilmington city limits, as well as to allow students who begin to participate in the Youth Advisory Council during their 8th grade year to participate through their 12th grade year.

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT: The Office of Management and Budget (OMB), in consultation with City Council, has reviewed and analyzed the Ordinance amending Chapter 2 of the City Code relating to the membership and term limits of the Wilmington Youth Advisory Council (WYAC). The Ordinance expands eligibility to include students who live outside the City but attend a school located within Wilmington. It also allows students who begin participating in eighth grade to continue through twelfth grade, provided they reapply annually. The Ordinance does not increase the WYAC's authorized membership of 20 members.

The Ordinance itself is not expected to have a direct fiscal impact because it does not change the authorized number of WYAC members, the stipend structure, or the anticipated meeting schedule. Any increase in stipend expenditures would result from an increase in participation within WYAC's existing 20-member authorization, rather than from a new cost imposed by the Ordinance. Based on information provided by City Council staff, WYAC members receive $50 per meeting and are expected to meet once per month over a nine-month period.

For purposes of this analysis, City Council staff indicated an anticipated participation level of 13 WYAC members. At that participation level, stipend expenditures over the nine-month period would total approximately $5,850, assuming full attendance at all nine meetings. If all 20 authorized positions were filled and members attended all nine meetings, the maximum stipend expenditure under these assumptions would be approximately $9,000, or $3,150 more than the cost for 13 members.

City Council has budgeted $15,000 for the WYAC program. Accordingly, the existing appropriation is sufficient to cover estimated stipend expenditures even if all 20 authorized positions are filled. In that case, approximately $6,000 would remain within the program budget for administrative, transportation, meals, supplies, or other program-related costs. Based on these assumptions, the Ordinance is not expected to require an additional appropriation.