

Get rid of Wilmington discretionary funds: Letters

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Get rid of city discretionary funds

Thank you for your recent front-page article shining some hopefully "disinfecting" sunshine on the Wilmington City Council's discretionary fund and the "highest standards" under which the esteemed Council President, Ms. Shabazz, characterizes its operations.

The existence of this fund and its operation is truly shocking. Moreover, Shabazz's numerous examples of "appropriate" expenditures serve only to underscore that this fund is nothing other than a political patronage slush fund utilized for the sole purpose of ensuring the continuing reelection of the incumbent council members.

I recently moved to Wilmington from Washington, D.C. I recall vividly the indictment of then-Secretary of Commerce Maurice Stans, who administered a safe full of cash as Chairman of the Committee to Reelect President Nixon.

With all of the crime, blight and other problems facing the City of Wilmington, the last thing the Council should be spending \$450,000 on each year is gifts to "nonprofit" organizations founded by its own members.

The discretionary fund should be eliminated, and its proceeds directed towards the true needs of the city or returned to its taxpayers in the form of lower taxes. Any council member who thinks this is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds should be removed from office.

Jonathon R. Moore

Wilmington