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WILMINGTON City Council

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Dr. Hanifa Shabazz, President



The year 2017 began with the historic inaugural swearing in of Wilmington City Council's first woman President and an unprecedented seven new Council Members for the 107th Session. Over the past year, Wilmington City Council has undertaken a range of important legislative, community

engagement and planning initiatives with a focus on moving Wilmington forward.

In presenting this 2017 year in review, we reflect on the progress we have made. Our accomplishments are made possible through the ongoing partnership and support of our citizens, local businesses, and neighborhood and community groups as we work toward the shared goal of making Wilmington a safe and enjoyable place to live, work, and visit.

**Wilmington City Council is pleased
to share the following 2017
highlights:**

Legislation and Policy

Council passed more than 30 ordinances and 55 legislative resolutions in 2017. Highlights include the passage or adoption of:



- The City of Wilmington's FY2018 Budget by a majority vote with support for the Fire Academy and the Live Where You Work Program.
- An ordinance to protect City employees by requiring motorists to pass with care when driving around a sanitation truck or other municipal vehicle.
- An ordinance enhancing the process for nuisance property tracking and nuisance abatement.
- An ordinance to extend Sunday hours of liquor stores, in commercial zones, to help make Wilmington businesses more competitive with their counterparts in New Castle County.
- An ordinance repealing the landlord training requirement that had been imposed upon landlords and replaced it with a requirement for new landlords and those with provisional business licenses.

- Resolutions advocating for or against various proposals, at the State and Federal levels, that directly or indirectly impact the City of Wilmington; focusing on issues including parity in education, the death penalty, tax reform, protections for victims of sexual assault on college campuses, and the expansion of rail infrastructure in the region, to name a few.
- Resolutions authorizing more than a dozen grant applications, to the State and Federal Government and private foundations, to secure alternative funding for City initiatives and projects.
- Ordinances to enact various parking and traffic regulations designed to make it easier to drive and park in Wilmington.
- An ordinance to extend the boundaries of the downtown business improvement district.
- An ordinance to approve the annexation of the portion of Cathedral Cemetery which has historically been part of New Castle County.
- A resolution to approve the formation of a Public Policy Partnership between the City, Delaware State University, and the University of Delaware – which will help to coordinate and facilitate joint projects and collaborations between the state’s two largest public research universities and its largest city, to help devise new policies to help enhance quality of life and operations in Wilmington. The program will also facilitate continued opportunities for graduate students to obtain hands-on, applied research and public service experience while benefitting the City and its various departments.

**Delivering On A Strong Plan Now With A Vision For
The Future**



Council worked collaboratively to develop a strategic roadmap for moving Wilmington forward.

- Organized the first-ever Wilmington City Council Onboarding Retreat to provide information and training for all of council.
- Engaged in a historic Strategic Planning Process, and approved a comprehensive Strategic Planning Process document detailing a range of holistic and all-encompassing policy and operational goals and objectives for the 107th Session of City Council.

- Launched a comprehensive Code Clean-up initiative to review the City Code in order to identify sections requiring revision and to propose amendments through legislation that will address archaic provisions, language, and references in an effort to modernize City Code.

Efficient and Effective Public Service

Managing resources responsibly while providing courteous constituent service.



- Transitioned to paperless Council and Committee meetings by investing in tablets and cloud-based technology to share and communicate information with Council and staff.
- Re-aligned staff roles and functions to enhance organizational performance as well as support constituent services.

- Established internal protocols to streamline coordination and support of Council member's activities in their respective districts.

Government Accountability and Transparency

Earning and maintaining the trust of Wilmington's residents is one of the greatest priorities for City Council.



- Worked internally and with other City departments and offices to review long-standing practices and processes, with an eye toward enhancing efficiencies and making operational changes to

maximize productivity and remove unnecessary bureaucratic impediments.

- Established a formal grant application, submission, and approval process for community support grants of \$5,000 or more and a notification requirement for smaller grant awards.
- Published community support grant fund allocations on Council's website under "Documents and Reports" for public review.

Community Support and Engagement

An informed, knowledgeable, and involved citizenry is a prerequisite for a better Wilmington.



- Continued to support the important work of the Wilmington Community Advisory Council (formerly the CDC Community Advisory Council) by providing leadership and resources toward efforts to implement the recommendations of the CDC Community Advisory Council's Final Report: Accelerating Youth Violence Prevention and Positive Development – A Call to Action.
- Helped Wilmington families realize their college dream by providing \$80,000 in scholarships.
- Launched Council's state-of-the-art, user-friendly website designed to maximize the dissemination of important information to the public and to enhance communication to and from members of Council from constituents.
- Leveraged social media platforms and utilized the popularity and effectiveness of Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube to provide timely and accurate information to the public.
- Expanded its social media footprint by adding more than 1,000 new followers.
- Launched a City-wide public safety listening tour entitled "Community Conversations with Wilmington City Council" in partnership with Wilmington's new Police Chief.



Government Access Channel WITN 22

Producing quality city-specific content to inform, educate, and engage Wilmington residents, employees, businesses, and visitors.

- Continued to air live and repeat coverage of Council and committee meetings, and shared important information on City events and activities on the WITN Channel 22 community bulletin board.
- Increased coverage of events and activities around Wilmington and produced a wide range of programming; including the Two Minute Drill, Sights and Sounds, The Big Picture, and Conversations with Council that highlight City departments, services, cultural affairs, and attractions.
- Upgraded the WITN Channel 22 electronic Community Bulletin Board to incorporate social media feeds, local weather,

community events as well as upcoming city government meeting times and city government announcements and notices.

Other Notable 2017 Achievements



- Secured funding to establish a Safe Haven site in Wilmington's Sixth District and extended evening and weekend hours as a means to reduce violent crimes and promote youth development.
- Partnered with prospective employers to sponsor two job fairs.
- Promoted literacy by reading to nearly 500 students enrolled at Wilmington Head Start and donating books.
- Partnered with NOR Enterprise Inc. to collect food for the needy during their 35th Annual Turkey Drive which fed 5,000 families in Delaware.
- Helped organize a three-city response to the crisis in the Texas Gulf Coast area by collecting and deploying needed resources to individuals and families in Houston impacted by Hurricane Harvey.

- Supported local toy drive that provided over 300 toys to Wilmington children.



As a Council, we are the sum of many parts, and working together is how we will make Wilmington a great place to live, work, and visit.

In 2017, Council worked diligently to address the multitude of issues facing our great city for the benefit of our residents, employees, businesses, and visitors; and in 2018 we look forward to continuing to move Wilmington forward.

UPCOMING EVENTS

[Wilmington Advisory Council Meeting](#)

Feb 13th, 3:00 PM

[Education Youth & Family Committee Meeting](#)



Feb 14th, 5:00 PM

[City Council Meeting](#)

Feb 15th, 6:30 PM

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