

Wilmington, Delaware  
May 19, 2016

#4215

**WHEREAS**, the Wilmington Police Department's creation of a specialized homicide unit has led to improvements in case handling and clearance; and

**Sponsor:**

**WHEREAS**, police officials in Wilmington have pointed to the operation of criminal gangs in the City, and the suspected commission of crimes by the same; and

**Council  
Member  
Williams**

**Co-Sponsor:**

**WHEREAS**, many cities across America have created specialized gang units in their police departments, aimed at establishing a team of dedicated investigators to gather intelligence and file charges against members of such street gangs; and

**Council  
Member  
Dorsey Walker**

**WHEREAS**, research funded by the National Institute of Justice has found that contemporary law enforcement approaches to investigating gang activity have begun to take a more data-driven, intelligence-based approach to crime control and suppression; and

**WHEREAS**, these approaches to establishing gang units in American law enforcement agencies have grown in popularity, and have evolved to coalesce with broader community policing strategies; and

**WHEREAS**, the Wilmington Police Department should consider forming its own Gang Intelligence Unit, which could potentially benefit from partnerships with similar initiatives of the Delaware Attorney General's Office and the Delaware State Police.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WILMINGTON**, that the Council respectfully encourages the Administration and the Wilmington Police Department to consider establishing a specialized Gang Intelligence Unit, to include a civilian computer expert as well as an experienced member, or members, of the department, with the charge of gathering intelligence on criminal street gangs operating in the City of Wilmington, and taking proactive steps to build cases against such operations and suppressing anti-social acts committed by these groups.

Passed by City Council,  
May 19, 2016

Attest: Maribel Seijo  
City Clerk

Approved as to form this 12<sup>th</sup>  
day of May, 2016.

Danya Shatrano  
Assistant City Solicitor