



City of Wilmington

Nnamdi O. Chukwuocha
City Council Member, 1st District

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Education, Youth & Families Committee

Nnamdi O. Chukwuocha, Chair
Ernest "Trippi" Congo, II
Va'Shun "Vash" Turner
Charles M. "Bud" Freel
Michelle Harlee, Vice-Chair
Hanifa Shabazz, Ex-Officio Member

NOTICE

Education, Youth & Families Committee Meeting

November 8, 2017

5:00 p.m.

1st Floor Council Committee Room

Agenda

- Discuss a Resolution Opposing the Actions of the U.S. Department of Education in Rescinding Guidelines for Colleges and Universities Related to Title IX Compliance and Encouraging Safeguards for Victims of Sexual Harassment and Violence
- Discuss a Resolution Supporting the Partnership Between the Governor's Office of Innovation and Improvement and Christina School District
- Discuss a Resolution Recognizing Diverse Holidays in Wilmington and Encouraging Inclusivity Among City Departments in Celebrations and Displays
- Discuss a Resolution Encouraging the Mayor to Sub-Name the 800 Block of North French Street as "Reverend Peter Spencer Way"
- Discuss a Resolution Requesting that the General Assembly Add the Sixth District Council Member to the Working Group on Developing Canby Park
- Discuss a Resolution to Rename the Indoor Basketball Court at the William "Hicks" Anderson Community Center the "Matt Chittum Court"
- A Discussion on the Proposal to Establish a Wilmington City School District

Wilmington, Delaware
November 16, 2017

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Sponsor:

Council
Member
Chukwuocha

WHEREAS, one of the responsibilities of the United States Department of Education is to create policies and guidelines regulating education, including regulations under Title IX that pertain to higher education institutions; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of Title IX is to protect those under any education program or activity receiving federal financial assistance from discrimination on the basis of sex, which includes protection from sexual harassment and violence; and

WHEREAS, the United States Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights recently rescinded the "Dear Colleague" letter and a 2014 question-and-answer document, a set of documents which detailed the responsibility of colleges and universities to respond promptly and fairly to reports of sexual violence, and to bring their policies into compliance with Title IX; and

WHEREAS, these documents represented a standard which colleges were to abide by, and promoted the protection and rights of survivors of sexual harassment and violence. With these policies rescinded, colleges are left to create their own standards under Title IX until a new policy is implemented, leading to potentially varying levels of protection of students from campus to campus; and

WHEREAS, the Secretary of Education, Betsy DeVos, has made statements that suggest that the new policy to be implemented as the standard for colleges might be focused on the protection of the alleged perpetrators of sexual violence, not the survivors; and

WHEREAS, a study conducted by the United States Department of Justice in 2013 found that only 35% of survivors report sexual assault to the police; and

WHEREAS, ensuring that survivors have the resources and support they need is critical to promoting an atmosphere in which survivors feel empowered and perpetrators of sexual violence are held accountable. There is concern on behalf of sexual assault survivors and advocates that the new policy from the U.S. Department of Education may fail to protect survivors and may contribute to the underreporting of sexual assault; and

WHEREAS, according to a study conducted by the Association of American Universities in 2015, 11.2% of all graduate and undergraduate students experience rape or sexual assault through physical force, violence, or incapacitation; and

WHEREAS, according to the United States Census Bureau, an estimated 12.4% of Wilmington's population consists of bright young men and women between the ages of 15 and 24, some of whom are pursuing higher education, and it is the responsibility of the City to promote and advocate for policies that protect our youth who may be attending colleges locally and across the country; and

WHEREAS, sexual assault is one of the few crimes in which the victim is often blamed first. By standing in opposition to the views and statements made by the United States Department of Education, City Council stands in support of survivors of sexual assault.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WILMINGTON, that the Council strongly opposes the recent decision by the United States Department of Education to rescind the "Dear Colleague" letter and the 2014 question-and-answer document, and the ensuing protections those documents had afforded to survivors of sexual assault. The Council urges the United States Department of Education to consider the impact that a change in Title IX policy could have on colleges across the nation, and calls for colleges and universities to stand united in support of survivors and their rights.

Passed by City Council,

Attest: _____
City Clerk

Approved as to form this _____
day of November, 2017

Senior Assistant City Solicitor

SYNOPSIS: This Resolution opposed the recent actions of the United States Department of Education rescinding the “Dear Colleague” letter and the 2014 question-and-answer document as guidelines for colleges and universities to utilize in compliance with Title IX related to the protection of students from sexual harassment and violence. This Resolution further urges the Department of Education to consider the implications that a change in policy could have on survivors of sexual violence.

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Wilmington, Delaware
November 16, 2017

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Sponsor:

Council
Member
Chukwuocha

WHEREAS, Governor John Carney has recognized the unique opportunities and challenges faced by Wilmington students, in particular those served by the Christina School District, by creating the Office of Innovation and Improvement for Wilmington schools; and

WHEREAS, the Christina School District's high need/high poverty Wilmington schools have consistently been among the lowest performing in the State according to several indicators: academic performance, absenteeism, suspension rates and teacher turnover; and

WHEREAS, Wilmington City Council joins Governor Carney in saying that "now is the time for change" by establishing new Wilmington specific partnerships with the Christina School District, Christina Education Association, Department of Education and the Office of Innovation and Improvement to focus on the needs of Wilmington students attending Christina schools in Wilmington in order to improve the educational outcome for our children, our future; and

WHEREAS, Wilmington City Council understands the position of the District and Christina Education Association of not wanting to be forced to comply with yet another unfunded school turnaround initiative. However, through attending in-state and out-of-state school visits, compassionate schools trainings and community town hall meetings, this Council believes that the partnership will help to bring in additional support to help address the unique needs of Wilmington schools; and

WHEREAS, abundant evidence documents the relationship between educational outcomes and nonacademic factors, such as neighborhood poverty, exposure to violence and trauma. Students' untreated social, emotional and mental health needs can lead to academic and social failure which increase the risk factors of dropping out of school, and contribute to family and community dysfunction. In order to change the direction of our schools, policy makers and educators must adopt comprehensive "whole child and whole school" educational interventions that can address these learning barriers and concurrently focus on improving student academic outcomes; and

WHEREAS, out of school suspensions, which make academic progress even more difficult, can be decreased by increased compassionate school supports and other restorative approaches that foster less punitive environments within our schools; and

WHEREAS, generational poverty and the impact of pervasive trauma on students, their families and communities has to be recognized. Many of the students and their families clearly have multiple adverse childhood experiences and an array of adverse community experiences, including sustained poverty and exposure to community violence. These hurdles to education are only addressed with compassionate care and trauma informed supports; and

WHEREAS, the partnership would be in alignment with the recommendations of the Wilmington Education Improvement Commission report, that the Wilmington City Council supported through participation and resolution. This supportive alliance would address some of the barriers that prevent academic success for the students, their families, communities and schools, through targeted partnerships geared towards improving academic and social outcomes by increasing parental and community engagement, creating less punitive/

compassionate schools, improving teacher quality and equitable funding to meet the needs of high-poverty schools.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WILMINGTON, that City Council thanks Governor Carney for engaging the Wilmington City Council in this process and looks forward to being a continued invested member of this most critical alliance to highlight and implement evidence-based, promising and proven best practices to alter the trajectory of our students, schools and districts.

Passed by City Council,

Attest: _____
City Clerk

Approved as to form this _____
day of November, 2017

Senior Assistant City Solicitor

SYNOPSIS: This Resolution supports the stance that Governor John Carney has taken regarding the opportunities and challenges facing Wilmington schools and students. This resolution further thanks Governor Carney for engaging with the Wilmington City Council in the process of implementing evidence-based practices to alter the trajectory of our students, schools and districts.

Wilmington, Delaware
November 16, 2017

WHEREAS, the Wilmington City Council is committed to celebrating diversity and fostering a culture of inclusivity in the City of Wilmington; and

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Sponsors:

Council
President
Shabazz

Council
Member
Chukwuocha

WHEREAS, the City of Wilmington is home to a diverse population of residents who celebrate many different holidays and traditions sacred to their cultural and religious heritages; and

WHEREAS, the holiday season is approaching and the City is preparing to celebrate these joyous occasions with festivities and displays.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WILMINGTON, that Wilmington City Council does hereby resolve to recognize and celebrate diverse holidays that reflect the cultural and religious heritages of its fine citizens. Such holidays include, but are not limited to, Christmas, Hanukkah and Kwanzaa.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Wilmington City Council encourages all City departments to consider the principles of inclusivity when planning holiday celebrations and displays.

Passed by City Council,

Attest: _____
City Clerk

Approved as to form this _____
day of November, 2017.

Senior Assistant City Solicitor

SYNOPSIS: City Council resolves to celebrate diverse holidays within the City of Wilmington. Council encourages all City departments to consider the principles of inclusivity when planning holiday celebrations and displays.

Wilmington, Delaware
November 16, 2017

WHEREAS, pursuant to Sec. 2-3 of the Wilmington City Code, the Mayor retains authority to sub-name by executive order any City street and designate the appropriate sub-name signage pursuant to subsection 2-298(17); and

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Sponsors:

**Council
President
Shabazz**

**Council
Member
Chukwuocha**

WHEREAS, former Mayor James M. Baker used this authority to sub-name a portion of Eastlawn Avenue the “Al O. Plant and Hazel D. Plant Memorial Route” in honor of the dedicated husband and wife who both served multiple terms in the Delaware House of Representatives; and

WHEREAS, former Mayor Dennis P. Williams used this authority to sub-name a portion of Washington Street “Bishop Aretha E. Morton Way” in honor of Wilmington’s first female and African-American Fire Department Chaplain who broke barriers for women in the ministry; and

WHEREAS, throughout its history, such residents as Bishop Morton and Mr. and Ms. Plant have transformed and enhanced Wilmington through their dedicated efforts and service; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the City take steps to properly recognize and pay tribute to the contributions of those residents; and

WHEREAS, another such resident is the renowned Reverend Peter Spencer, who in 1813 founded the nation’s first independent African American church denomination, the Union Church of Africans; and

WHEREAS, the Union Church of Africans later split into what are now referred to as the “Spencer Churches,” the African Union Methodist Protestant (A.U.M.P.) and Union American Methodist Episcopal (U.A.M.E.) denominations; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Spencer founded the nation’s oldest African American festival, the August Quarterly, which celebrates religious freedom, freedom of speech and the right of assembly and which, during the antebellum period, also helped slaves escape to freedom by serving as a conduit to the Underground Railroad; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Spencer, who was born into slavery in Maryland and moved to Delaware after gaining his freedom, was well known in Wilmington not only as a pastor, but also as a community organizer, a dedicated educator who worked tirelessly to teach community members how to read and write, and a committed anti-slavery activist; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Spencer’s Union Church of Africans, which later became the African Union Methodist Protestant Church, stood on the 800 block of North French Street from 1813 until 1970, when it was razed to make way for the governmental buildings that now stand in its place; and

WHEREAS, City Council wishes to recognize the contributions of Reverend Peter Spencer, the father of the independent black church movement in Delaware, through encouraging the Mayor to sub-name the 800 block of North French Street as “Reverend Peter Spencer Way.”

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WILMINGTON, that City Council respectfully encourages the Mayor to designate the 800 block of North French Street as “Reverend Peter Spencer Way,” in recognition of

Reverend Spencer’s significant contributions to the City of Wilmington. City Council looks forward to joining the Administration in celebrating this designation.

Passed by City Council,

Attest: _____
City Clerk

Approved as to form this _____
day of November, 2017.

Senior Assistant City Solicitor

SYNOPSIS: This Resolution encourages the Mayor to sub-name the 800 block of North French Street as “Reverend Peter Spencer Way,” in recognition of the renowned Wilmington Pastor’s significant contributions to the City and nation’s history.

Wilmington, Delaware
November 16, 2017

WHEREAS, the Delaware General Assembly passed Senate Bill No. 125 on July 3, 2017; and

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Sponsor:
Council Member
McCoy

WHEREAS, Senate Bill No. 125 included provisions establishing a working group to determine the feasibility of developing Canby Park in the 6th District of the City of Wilmington or other locations in Wilmington suitable for the purpose of providing sports and recreational facilities to St. Elizabeth High School and Howard High School; and

WHEREAS, the working group currently consists of various stakeholders, including individuals representing the General Assembly, the State of Delaware, New Castle County and the City of Wilmington; and

WHEREAS, although the City of Wilmington has appointments on the working group from the Administration and the Treasurer's Office, the Council Member from the host district is not included; and

WHEREAS, the inclusion of the Council Member from the host district would bring to the working group a wealth of knowledge regarding the district and those who reside there, which would be of value to the group and aid in its success; and

WHEREAS, the Wilmington City Council respectfully recommends that the General Assembly amend Senate Bill No. 125 to include the 6th District Council Member as a permanent member of the working group.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WILMINGTON, that the Council respectfully requests that the 6th District Council Member be included as a permanent member of the working group created by the passage of

Senate Bill No. 125. The inclusion of the 6th District Council Member would ensure that the best interests of the community are kept in mind by the working group in determining the feasibility of developing Canby Park.

Passed by City Council,

Attest: _____

City Clerk

Approved as to form this _____
day of November, 2017.

Senior Assistant City Solicitor

SYNOPSIS: This Resolution asks the General Assembly to amend Senate Bill No. 125 to add the 6th District Council Member to the working group tasked with determining the feasibility of developing Canby Park or other locations in Wilmington suitable for the purpose of providing sports and recreational facilities to St. Elizabeth High School and Howard High School.

Wilmington, Delaware
November 16, 2017

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Sponsors:

Council
Members
Turner
Guy

WHEREAS, Wilmington City Council has enacted Section 2-3 of the Wilmington City Code regarding the authorization and procedures for naming City streets, parks, playgrounds, plazas, buildings, facilities, statues, monuments, and other lands reserved for public use in order to commemorate a particular person and his/her social significance to the City; and

WHEREAS, Section 2-3 states that if it is proposed that a part of, or any facility within, a street or reserved land that is subject to this section be named or renamed in honor of or dedicated to any person, place or event that is different from the rest of it or that is different than that within which it is located, such naming or renaming may be done by resolution of City Council pursuant to subsection (d) of this section, while retaining the name of the rest of the street or park or other reserved land within which the park facility or object so dedicated is located; and

WHEREAS, The William "Hicks" Anderson Community Center, located on the corner of 5th and Madison Streets in Wilmington, was named in honor of William "Hicks" Anderson, a youth and community advocate who worked tirelessly to improve quality of life for residents living in the City's disadvantaged and underrepresented communities; and

WHEREAS, the Wilmington City Council and the community of West Center City wish to honor Matt Chittum, a life-long resident of West Center City and former basketball star, by naming the indoor basketball court at William "Hicks" Anderson Community Center (WHACC) the "Matt Chittum Court" while retaining the significance of the community center's original name; and

WHEREAS, Matt Chittum’s accomplishments as a basketball player include winning several league championships while playing on the City’s youth league at WHACC and playing for an international league alongside such future celebrated players as Alonzo Mourning and Grant Hill; and

WHEREAS, although his promising career was cut short by a serious illness, Matt Chittum, or “Matty C” as he is affectionately known, continues to exemplify the values of good sportsmanship by acting as a positive role for youth in the community; and

WHEREAS, to honor his accomplishments both on and off the basketball court, the City of Wilmington has created a youth basketball league named the “Matt Chittum Basketball League” that is intended to further develop the skills and talent of the young men and women who regularly play basketball at WHACC while also fostering a sense of community and reinforcing the importance of education among these youth.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WILMINGTON, that City Council hereby resolves to name the indoor basketball court at the William “Hicks” Anderson Community Center the “Matt Chittum Court.”

Passed by City Council,

Attest: _____
City Clerk

Approved as to form this _____
day of November, 2017.

Senior Assistant City Solicitor

SYNOPSIS: This Resolution approves naming of the indoor basketball court at the William “Hicks” Anderson Community Center the “Matt Chittum Court.”