



City of Wilmington

Loretta Walsh
City Council Member At-Large

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Public Safety Committee

Loretta Walsh, Vice Chair
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Michelle Harlee
Yolanda McCoy
Dr. Hanifa Shabazz, Ex-Officio Member

NOTICE

Public Safety Committee Meeting

September 9, 2019

5:00 p.m.

1st Floor Council Committee Room

Agenda

- A Resolution Approving the Filing of a Grant application to the U.S. Department of Justice for the FY'19 Body Worn Camera Policy and Implementation Program
- A Resolution Encouraging the Administration to be Supportive of Wilmington as a "Safe and Inclusive Communities" for All Residents Regardless of Citizenship or Immigration Status in the City of Wilmington
- A Presentation by the Department of Corrections Regarding Issues with Recidivism and Programs Provided to Level IV and Level V Inmates
- A Presentation by the Wilmington Police Department Victim Services Unit and Youth Response Unit

(8/30/19)

If public comment is permitted during this committee meeting, any member of the public who wishes to speak during the committee meeting will be limited to three minutes per agenda item. If the public's permission to comment is abused, the Chair may exercise greater discretion in limiting public comment

Wilmington, Delaware
September 19, 2019

#xxxx

Sponsor:

**Council
Member
Walsh**

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 2-363 of the City Code, the Council deemed it necessary and proper to specify the requirements for review and approval of City-sponsored grant applications and proposals, including authorization for expedited grant applications when necessary prior to Council’s approval by resolution; and

WHEREAS, the City, through the Wilmington Police Department, applied for a grant from the United States Department of Justice’s (“DOJ”) Bureau of Justice Assistance (“BJA”) in the amount of \$1,999,346; and

WHEREAS, the Wilmington Police Department intends to use the grant money to implement a Body Worn Camera Program; and

WHEREAS, the City has made the improvement of police-community relations a top priority through an aggressive community-oriented policing program; and

WHEREAS, the effective implementation of Body Worn Cameras is a crucial mechanism that can strengthen police-community relationships and decrease the allegation of police misconduct through enhanced legitimacy and accountability; and

WHEREAS, the utilization of Body Worn Camera technology will greatly benefit the department by including enhanced and real-time evidence documentation, increased accountability, and agency transparency; and

WHEREAS, aligning directly with the Wilmington Police Department’s mission statement, Body Worn Cameras would foster working “in a true partnership with our fellow citizens” and would “raise the level of public safety”; and

WHEREAS, the equipment component of the project includes the purchase of 315 camera systems and a storage infrastructure to house the video captured by the devices.

WHEREAS, training for sworn personnel will be provided, covering the proper deployment and maintenance of the cameras; and

WHEREAS, the Council deems it necessary and proper to authorize the grant application, for the aforesaid purposes.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WILMINGTON that the Wilmington Police Department’s grant application to the DOJ/BJA in the amount of \$1,999,346 is hereby authorized.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Chief of the Wilmington Police Department, or his designee, shall be authorized to take all necessary actions to accept any and all funds associated with the grant application and to fulfill the grant requirements.

Passed by City Council,

ATTEST: _____
City Clerk

SYNOPSIS: This Resolution authorizes the Wilmington Police Department’s application for a grant from the United States Department of Justice’s (“DOJ”) Bureau of Justice Assistance (“BJA”) in the amount of \$1,999,346. The grant will enable the Wilmington Police Department outfit 315 sworn officers with Body Worn Cameras with the goal of strengthening police-community relationships and enhancing real-time evidence documentation.

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT: There is no negative fiscal impact on the City. Although the grant requires that the City provide 50% in matching funds, the Wilmington Police Department intends to provide \$999,673 from budgeted funds.

#XXXX

Sponsor:

Council
Member
McCoy

WHEREAS, the City of Wilmington is, and has been home to thousands of individuals of different nationalities, ethnicities, religions and sexual orientations, who have developed the economic, cultural, civic and physical environment of this vibrant and largest City in the Diamond state of Delaware; and

WHEREAS, Wilmington has a rich legacy of honoring and celebrating the many different groups of people who represent our City, with longstanding festivals such as St. Anthony's Italian Festival, the People's Festival 4Peace Tribute to Bob Marley, the Indo-American India Fest, the August Quarterly Religious Festival, the St. Hedwig Polish Festival, the Wilmington Hispanic Festival and the Wilmington Greek Festival; and

WHEREAS, a Safe Community is defined as a community that limits its cooperation with federal immigration enforcement agents in order to protect immigrants from deportation and ensuring that all residents receive City services regardless of immigration status; and

WHEREAS, the cooperation of all individuals, both those here legally and those without documentation, is essential to achieving the City's goals of protecting and enhancing the quality of life of residents and visitors; and

WHEREAS, it is fundamental to the values of our City that all people have equal access to City services, regardless of their citizenship or immigration status; and

WHEREAS, in order to maintain trust between the City and all its residents, Wilmington seeks to protect the safety, civil, and human rights of all residents, regardless of race, sexual orientation, religion, ethnicity and immigration status; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WILMINGTON that the Administration is hereby encouraged to consider, where necessary, the following revisions in current policy in order to ensure equitable treatment among all City residents:

Section 1: Protection of Residents' Personal Information. It shall be the policy of all City of Wilmington departments, agencies and commissions not to provide non-publicly available information about an individual to any entity or official, including, but not limited to, any state or federal government agency or official, unless necessary to perform department, agency or commission duties or such actions required by law.

Section 2: Restriction on Use of City Resources. It shall be the policy of all City of Wilmington departments, agencies and commissions not to identify, investigate or detain any person solely on the basis of a suspected violation of immigration law.

Section 3: Implementation and Training of Law Enforcement. The Wilmington Police Department is encouraged to review and where necessary revise their policies regarding immigrants to reflect the values of the City of Wilmington to be welcoming of all persons, regardless of immigrant status. Other City of Wilmington departments are also encouraged to review their policies to ensure compliance to these values.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Wilmington City Council values all of the principles of our Democracy and this country's heritage of being a nation of immigrants. Therefore, the purpose of this Resolution is to strongly encourage the Administration to consider making the above policy and operational changes so that all residents, regardless of immigration status, national and ethnic origins, race, religion or sexual orientation have equal access to City services, feel welcome, protected and valued in our great City of Wilmington.

Passed by City Council,

Attest: _____
City Clerk

SYNOPSIS: The purpose of this Resolution is to strongly encourage the Administration to revise any current policies and operations that may not reflect the City's values of inclusivity regarding Wilmington's rich multi-ethnic heritage by making certain that Wilmington is a Safe Community for all its residents.

DRAFT