

Wilmington, Delaware
April 1, 2021

#

WHEREAS, the purpose of the Victims' Compensation Assistance Program (VCAP)

Sponsor:

is to alleviate some of the financial burden faced by victims, those that are directly related to the specific offense, by providing compensation for certain losses; and

**Council
Member
Oliver**

WHEREAS, the Victims' Compensation Assistance Program was started in 1988 to help meet additional need incurred by victims of crime; and

WHEREAS, the Victims' Compensation Assistance Program provides compensation for funeral and burial cost to loss of support for victims of violence, and temporary housing to personal safety property; and

WHEREAS, Chapter 90, Title 11 of Delaware Code has not been updated to reflect the increased costs of funeral and burial, since its inception; and

WHEREAS, Wilmington residents who are secondary victims of crime as defined by Chapter 90, Title 11 of Delaware Code have experienced additional burden in recent years; and

WHEREAS, current rules restrict access to VCAP funds for the commission of a crime, that is often unrelated to the victim's reasons for applying for VCAP funds and contributes to the financial burden of the victim; and

WHEREAS, the current amount of funeral and burial assistance is no more than \$5,000 total; and

WHEREAS, the average cost of funeral and burial are levied between \$7,000 and \$12,000 which is difficult for many low-income families to afford.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WILMINGTON that the Delaware General Assembly is urged to increase amount of

Victims' Compensation Assistance Programs funeral allotment to \$5,000 and burial allotment to \$2,500 for a total of \$7,500.

ATTEST: _____
City Clerk

SYNOPSIS: A Resolution urging the Delaware General Assembly to increase the Victims' Compensation Assistance Program (VCAP) funeral and burial allotment to a total of \$7,500 for eligible applicants.

DRAFT