

RES 24-039

Wilmington, Delaware
June 20, 2024

#0451

Sponsor:

Council
Member
Spadola

WHEREAS, the 2022-2025 Wilmington City Council Strategic Plan prioritizes a “Resident and Visitor Friendly Wilmington” with parking enhancements and planning, as well as appropriate enforcement mechanisms; and

WHEREAS, parking accessibility is a significant component of the City’s commercial and residential infrastructure. In the State of Delaware and nationally, local governments have recognized the need to reevaluate their parking policies, procedures, and amenities to meet the demands of modern motorists. Neighboring municipalities, including Delaware City, Dover, Newark, and Rehoboth, have conducted parking assessments to enhance their downtown parking capacities. They have implemented changes ranging from app-driven parking meter systems to improving signage and markings for more efficient coordination; and

WHEREAS, innovative parking solutions are necessary to support the continued economic growth of our City, as well as to position Wilmington to proactively respond to the changing regulatory requirements that will accompany the implementation of Title 7, Chapter 100, Delaware Climate Change Solutions Act. A parking study is a fundamental step in the determination of what policy changes would benefit residents and visitors. Such a study requires a range of specialized expertise, including a depth of knowledge about emerging technologies; and

WHEREAS, an experienced consulting agency can provide the necessary recommendations to modernize Wilmington’s parking infrastructure, reinforce the financial sustainability of our parking system, bolster our status as an attractive regional destination, and

assist our City with the transition to parking practices that are tailored to local needs in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. A comprehensive parking study would address issues that are critical to the advancement and preservation of effective parking management, including but not limited to, informing departmental administrators about new technologies and how they can be leveraged, defining optimal strategies to balance parking availability and demand in our business and residential districts, proposing times for parking enforcement that facilitate more efficient operations, incorporating public feedback throughout the planning process, and right-sizing fines and fees to effectively function as a deterrent while also reinforcing the sustainability of the parking system.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WILMINGTON that this Legislative body requests that the Administration, Department of Public Works, Department of Finance, and other relevant departments work collaboratively to engage a consulting agency that is experienced in parking evaluation to conduct a study of Wilmington's parking needs.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that an evidence-based approach to parking reform is in the best interests of motorists in the City of Wilmington.

Passed by City Council,
June 20, 2024

ATTEST: Maribel Seijo
City Clerk

SYNOPSIS: The 2022-2025 Wilmington City Council Strategic Plan prioritizes a "Resident and Visitor Friendly Wilmington" with parking enhancements and planning, as well as appropriate enforcement mechanisms. This Resolution requests that the Department of Public Works engage a consulting agency that is experienced in parking evaluation to conduct a study of Wilmington's parking needs in the best interests of all motorists in the City of Wilmington.