



**Finance Committee Budget Hearing  
Mayor's Office  
April 2, 2025**

1. Considering the recent court mandated property tax reassessment that has been completed for New Castle County that was done by Tyler Technologies, please share any citywide budgetary or fiscal plans to provide any type of financial assistance if warranted due to various financial circumstances.
2. With the evolving changes regarding Federal Grant Funding, while understanding possible legal challenges, discuss if any potential budgetary or fiscal contingencies for this upcoming budget, considering the large amount of grants, low interest loans, etc. that the city is heavily depended on for the day-to-day operations of the city, as well as capital funds. Please explain why or why not.
  - a. Notwithstanding the **\$10M** allocated as part of the current FY25 Budget for the Brace Bridge Project, share the impact if any, now that Federal Funding for **\$5M** may be on the chopping block.
  - b. Share the impact of the Federal Government changing the tax-exempt status on municipal bonds.
3. Council shared its FY26 Budget Priorities with the Administration, please elaborate on how the Mayor's Office proposed budget is aligned with some of the following priorities, and share any sustainability efforts:
  - a. **Community**: Beautification funding set aside in this operating budget for initiatives to address city-wide beautification needs.
  - b. **Education**: Continued HBCU Funding, with a minimum of **\$100K** specifically for Wilmington residents ONLY.
  - c. **Public Safety**: Continued funding for Police Accountability Board (PAB) or Citizen Review (CRB).
  - d. **Public Safety**: Funding set aside for expanding CPSI to other parts of the City.
4. Discuss any current vacant positions.
  - a. Specify duration of the vacancy.
  - b. Specify timeframe for filling position.
  - c. Specify if position generates revenue, and if so, estimated amount.
5. Discuss any proposed changes to positions (new position, deleted position, upgrade, realignment, transition, downgrade, title change, salary changes, etc.).
  - a. Share any organization staffing changes to build up Constituent Services, and the services for 311.

- i. Specify the average daily calls to 311, and average response time for completion of the request submitted.
  - ii. With the new Emergency Management Planner position, share if this position will interact with the community particularly with flooding issues, climate change, and sea level rise.
  - iii. Share about the additional \$129K budgeted for Temps.
6. Discuss the planned use of ~\$515K budgeted for Grants to Agencies, up \$200K over prior year's budget (excluding OED).
  - a) Specify the reoccurring large grants.
  - b) Share the process for how organizations can submit for large grants.
7. Discuss the planned use for \$475K budgeted in the Miscellaneous Project account line in the Cultural Affairs Division, up \$225K.
  - a. Specify any fees charged and or revenues collected for annual festivities such as Clifford Brown, July 4th Celebration, Juneteenth, etc.
  - b. Specify any sponsorships.
8. Share the planned use for ~\$324K budgeted for Consultants (excluding OED).
  - a. Specify vendor name, length of contract, and purpose.
  - b. Specify if any DBE's.
9. With the \$195K reduction in Advertising for removal of the "It's Time Campaign", please share the continued marketing and advertising strategies for promoting the City of Wilmington, and the correlating budgetary costs.
10. Discuss the planned use for \$166K budgeted in the Miscellaneous Services account line.
  - a) Specify the number of graffiti removals done in the last 2 fiscal years.
11. For Seniors, please share the budgetary allocations set aside to address some of their needs (ex. fans, thanksgiving ball, etc.).

#### **All Departments**

12. Provide FY2026 proposed organizational chart with the total number of employees (i.e. permanent, temporary, contract, vacancies).
  - a) If there are multiple divisions, please ensure there are sub-org charts that enumerate all the above.

#### **Capital Budget**

13. While realizing there is a delay when the city goes to the bond market, if you could share some potential planned use or possible projects intended for the "Five Percent for Art Capital Project" for \$400,000.