



**Finance Committee Budget Hearing
Mayor's Office
April 1, 2026**

1. While understanding the implications of the property tax reassessment administered by Tyler Technologies to residential, small business, and commercial entities, please share if the proposed citywide budget addresses any funding or resources to aid with appeals and if this budget provides the necessary adequate measures to assist with any unwarranted financial implications.
 - a. Specify the impact for the Property Tax Abatement Program (Low-to-Moderate Income, Long-Term Homeowners) and share the number of applicants submitted thus far.
 - b. Specify the number of applicants that submitted for grant assistance for appeals and share the amount of funds available from the \$75K allocation.
 - c. Since there were not any bids submitted for the RFP regarding interior assessments, please share if this budget addresses any funding set-asides, and if NCC is supportive for interior assessments.
 - d. Specify the potential impacts of recent state legislation on the 2025-2026 property tax valuations and billing, such as SB 228 AN ACT TO AMEND TITLES 9 AND 14 OF THE DELAWARE CODE RELATING TO COUNTY ASSESSMENTS AND TAX COLLECTION, which would give the county the authority to conduct quality control reviews after a general assessment. Explain how this proposed budget accounts for contingencies in the 2025-2026 property tax revenues and going forward.

2. Considering the city has ~\$74M in the Tax Stabilization Reserve Fund (*per FY25 ACFR*), and notwithstanding that its good financial prudence or the “rule of thumb” to have a minimum of **25%** of the budget in the Tax Stabilization reserve, please share the rationale for the unprecedented draw down of \$24M.
 - a. Specify the return on investment of \$16.8M for the Affordable Housing Subsidy, and projected timeframe for ROI.
 - b. Specify the return on investment of \$2M for Vacant Lots, and projected timeframe for ROI.
 - c. With 5-year projections showing expenditures *far outpacing* revenues each year, share the rationale for the draw down, and or is it the opinion that it’s prudent to draw down due to the amount in the Tax Stabilization Reserve Fund *far exceeds* the 25% “rule of thumb”.

3. 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.

4. Discuss any proposed changes to positions (new position, deleted position, upgrade, realignment, transition, downgrade, title change, salary changes, etc.).
5. Discuss how this budget meets the priorities of having an inclusive community. Specify how it supports the needs of vulnerable populations, including seniors, those with disabilities, and the immigrant populations, etc.
6. Discuss whether this budget provides the necessary funding, resources, and training for 311 to ensure that all staff are adequately trained in how to best assist with calls for service, etc.
 - a. Specify the average daily calls to 311, and average response time for completion of the request submitted.
 - b. Any plans for technology that can best assist constituents or improve operational efficiency such as an app.
 - c. Specify funding allocated for 311 services.
7. Please share if this budget provides adequate funding or resources to promote, advertise, and market all areas of Wilmington as a place for people and business to come visit, work, or live.
 - a. Specify if any budgeted funding or resources allocated.
8. Discuss the planned use of ~\$515K budgeted for Grants to Agencies in the Admin. Division.
 - a) Specify if any reoccurring grants.
 - b) Share the process for how organizations can submit for grant funding.
9. Discuss the planned use for \$475K budgeted in the Miscellaneous Project account line in the Cultural Affairs Division, and please share if this budget provides adequate funding and resources for the various cultural festivities throughout the city such as but not limited to: Clifford Brown Jazz Festival, July 4th Celebration, Juneteenth, 250th Celebration, etc.
 - a. Specify funding budgeted.
 - b. Specify any fees charged and revenues collected for annual festivities.
 - c. Share if any collaborations or sponsors.
10. Share the planned use for ~\$387K budgeted for Consultants (excluding OED), up \$63.5K.
 - a. Specify vendor name, length of contract, and purpose.
 - b. Specify if there are any DBE's.
11. Please share the amount of funds expended year to date from the \$500K Contingent Reserves account line.

Newly Created Office of Community Safety

12. Considering that City Council launched the Community Policing Safety Initiative (CPSI) in FY2023, and now this newly created office is seeking to establish something similar, please share if this proposed budget provides adequate funding for Network Connect and the Center for Structured Equity for the time period of January 1, 2027 to June 30, 2027 (*please explain why or why not*).
13. Please share if there are any mini-grants or other resources allocated in this budget for support of the community violence prevention and intervention activities (*please explain why or why not*).

14. Discuss if this budget addresses plans for consideration of expanding CPSI to other parts of the City related to hotspots (please explain why or why not).

15. Executive Order 2026-05 states that the Office of Community Safety will enhance coordination between City departments and strengthen governmental and community partnerships. Discuss any budgetary implications for planned coordination and partnerships.
 - a. Specify if there is any potential consideration for partnership with GVI.
 - b. Specify if budget allocates necessary resources to assist with the Incident Response Team.

16. Discuss the plans for this Office to collaborate with WPD regarding matters such as oversight of the Wilmington Community Police Accountability Board.
 - a. Specify any funding allocated while understanding \$30K is in WPD's budget for the WCPAB.

All Departments

17. Provide FY2027 proposed organizational chart with the total number of employees (i.e. permanent, temporary, contract, vacancies).
 - a) Please include in the Org chart a photo of all Directors, Managers, Divisions Heads, and Supervisors.
 - b) If there are multiple divisions, please ensure there are sub-org charts that enumerate all the above.