EXECUTIVE ORDER 2026-05

Establishment of the City of Wilmington Office of Community Safety

WHEREAS, the City of Wilmington is committed to ensuring that every resident, worker, and visitor feels safe in every neighborhood, and recognizes that community safety is strengthened through prevention, intervention, and coordinated response; and

WHEREAS, the City has collaborated with community-based organizations, violence-interruption programs, youth engagement, reentry supports, and neighborhood-level partnerships that have demonstrated measurable impact, including programs like the Community Public Safety Initiative and Group Violence Intervention; and

WHEREAS, the City's efforts would be strengthened by a centralized office responsible for coordinating cross-departmental strategies, aligning resources, supporting community partners, and advising the Mayor on emerging safety trends and best practices; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor, as the Chief Executive Officer of the City of Wilmington, is responsible for directing the administration of City government and ensuring the effective delivery of public services; and

WHEREAS, establishing an Office of Community Safety will enhance coordination among the Wilmington Police Department ("WPD"), Wilmington Fire Department ("WFD"), Office of Emergency Management ("OEM"), Department of Parks and Recreation, Department of License and Inspections, and other City agencies whose work directly or indirectly affects community safety; and

WHEREAS, the City seeks to strengthen its partnerships with county, state, and federal agencies, as well as hospitals, schools, nonprofits, and neighborhood-based organizations, to advance a comprehensive and equitable approach to safety; and

WHEREAS, the City has decided to create an Office of Community Safety for the foregoing reasons.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, JOHN CARNEY, MAYOR OF THE CITY OF WILMINGTON, BY VIRTUE OF THE AUTHORITY VESTED IN ME BY THE CITY CHARTER, DO HEREBY ORDER:

1. Establishment of the Office of Community Safety. There is hereby established the Office of Community Safety (the "Office") within the Executive Office of the Mayor. The mission of the Office is to strengthen public safety, reduce violence, and enhance community well-being through coordinated prevention, intervention, crisis response, and neighborhood-based strategies.

2. Leadership. The Mayor shall appoint a Director of Community Safety to lead the Office, who shall serve at the pleasure of the Mayor. The Director shall report directly to the Mayor or the Mayor's designee.

3. Responsibilities. The Office shall be responsible for the following:

    a. Leading the development and implementation of a Citywide Community Safety Strategy.

b. Facilitating coordination among City departments and offices whose work affects safety, including the WPD, WFD, OEM, Parks and Recreation, Public Works, and Licenses and Inspections.
c. Supporting Community-Based Prevention and Intervention.
d. Partnering with community organizations, violence-interruption programs, youth-serving agencies, and neighborhood associations.
e. Providing technical assistance, capacity-building, and data support to community partners.
f. Providing oversight and coordination for an incident response team and the Community Police Accountability Board (CPAB).
g. Providing homelessness-related safety coordination in partnership with service providers.
h. Collecting, analyzing, and sharing data to identify trends, guide resource allocation, and evaluate program effectiveness.
i. Serving as a liaison to county, state, and federal agencies on matters related to community safety, violence prevention, and crisis response.
j. Coordinating grant applications and managing relevant federal, state, and philanthropic funding streams.

4. Cooperation of City departments. All City departments, agencies, boards, and commissions shall provide full cooperation and assistance to the Office as needed to fulfill its mission. The Office may request data, staff support, or operational coordination as appropriate. Nothing in this Executive Order shall be construed to alter or diminish the charter-based and/or statutory-based authority of any City department or official.

5. Effective Date. This Executive Order shall become effective immediately upon its execution by the Mayor and shall remain in effect unless amended, superseded, or rescinded by a subsequent Executive Order.

Signed this 2nd day of March, 2026.

John C. Carney

The Honorable John Carney
Mayor

Attest:

Akira Grenardo

Akira R. Grenardo
City Clerk