



NEW CASTLE COUNTY COUNCIL ADMINISTRATIVE-FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING

Co-Chair George Smiley, Seventh District
Co-Chair John Cartier, Eighth District

May 13, 2025
4:00 PM

VIRTUAL ZOOM WEBINAR MEETING** &
LOUIS L. REDDING CITY/COUNTY BUILDING
1ST FLOOR COUNCIL CHAMBERS
800 N. FRENCH STREET, WILMINGTON, DE 19801

REVISED AGENDA

A. Call To Order/Roll Call

B. Approval of Minutes

C. Review/Discussion of Resolution(s)

R25-080: AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF ONE PURCHASE ORDER CONTRACT FOR PICTOMETRY INTERNATIONAL CORPORATION FOR RENEWAL OF AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHY SOFTWARE LICENSES FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION, OFFICE OF TECHNOLOGY AND ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES IN THE AMOUNT OF \$83,070.00

Prime Sponsor(s): Mr. Smiley, Mr. Cartier

R25-081: TO SET NEW CASTLE COUNTY'S FISCAL YEAR 2026 CONTRIBUTION RATE FOR THE COUNTY'S PENSION PLANS

Prime Sponsor(s): Mr. Smiley, Mr. Cartier

R25-082: APPROVING THE REFUND OF A DUPLICATE TAX PAYMENT ON TAX PARCEL NUMBER 09-018.000-30

Prime Sponsor(s): Mr. Smiley, Mr. Cartier

R25-084: TO AMEND NEW CASTLE COUNTY COUNCIL PROCEDURAL RULE NO. 4 ("REGULAR COUNCIL MEETINGS") RELATING TO ORDER OF BUSINESS

Prime Sponsor(s): Mr. Smiley

R25-085: TO AMEND NEW CASTLE COUNTY COUNCIL PROCEDURAL RULE NO. 12 ("EXPENDITURES FOR TRIPS BY COUNCIL MEMBERS OR EMPLOYEES") RELATING TO REPORTING

Prime Sponsor(s): Mr. Smiley

R25-086: TO AMEND NEW CASTLE COUNTY COUNCIL PROCEDURAL RULE NO. 13 ("COUNCIL GRANTS") RELATING TO PURCHASES

Prime Sponsor(s): Mr. Smiley

R25-088: (STATUS: TO BE TABLED) ADOPTING THE NEW CASTLE COUNTY CAPITAL PROGRAM FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026 THROUGH 2031

Prime Sponsor(s): Mr. Smiley, Mr. Cartier

R25-090: IN SUPPORT OF ACTIONS BY THE DELAWARE GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO UPDATE DELAWARE CODE TITLE 14, SECTION 1902 REGARDING TAX EXEMPTIONS AND MODIFICATION THEREOF

Prime Sponsor(s): Mr. Smiley, Ms. Kilpatrick

D. Review/Discussion of Ordinance(s)

°25-044: AMEND THE FY2025 CAPITAL PROGRAM AND BUDGET: APPROPRIATE \$16,820,000 IN FUNDING RECEIVED FROM THE STATE OF DELAWARE, DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, CHRISTINA RIVER FORCE MAIN CAPITAL PROJECT

Prime Sponsor(s): Mr. Sheldon, Mr. Carter

°25-046: TO AMEND NEW CASTLE COUNTY CODE CHAPTER 7 ("PROPERTY MAINTENANCE CODE"), ARTICLE 2 ("REGISTRATION AND PAYMENT OF FEES FOR VACANT PREMISES")

Prime Sponsor(s): Mr. Cartier

°25-047: TO AMEND *NEW CASTLE COUNTY CODE* CHAPTER 14 ("FINANCE AND TAXATION"), ARTICLE 6 ("EXEMPTION FROM REAL PROPERTY TAXATION") REGARDING PARTIAL COUNTY PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION FOR PROPERTY OWNED BY LOW-INCOME RESIDENTS

Prime Sponsor(s): Mr. Cartier

E. New Castle County Grant Requests/Community Events

- 5/13/25 Grant Matrix

F. Expense and Revenue Round Table

G. Other

H. Public Comment

I. Adjournment

REVISED AGENDA POSTED: MAY 12, 2025

AGENDA POSTED: MAY 6, 2025

*The revised agenda was posted less than (7) seven days in advance of the meeting to add R25-090 under Discussion of Resolutions. The agenda is being amended in order to timely consider passage by Council of R25-090, which the General Assembly has requested in support of enactment of legislation before the legislative session ends in June.

The agenda is posted (7) seven days in advance of the scheduled meeting in compliance with 29 *Del. C.* Section 10004(e)(2). The meeting may go into Executive Session to address issues that arise at the time of the meeting.

**Under Title 29, Section 10006A of *Delaware Code*, New Castle County Council is holding this meeting as a telephone and video conference, utilizing  Webinar. In addition, this meeting is open to the public in Council Chambers (800 N. French Street, Wilmington, DE 19801). The link to join the meeting via computer, smart device, or smart phone is : <https://zoom.us/j/377322142> You may also call into the meeting (audio) using the following call in numbers: 1-312-626-6799 or +1-646-558-8656 or +1-346-248-7799 or +1-669-900-9128 or +1-253-215-8782 or +1-301-715-8592. Then enter the Webinar ID: 377 322 142. If you do not have a good connection with one, please try the others. Additional information regarding phone functionality during the meeting is available at: <https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/articles/360029527911-Live-Training-Webinars>

Meeting materials, including a meeting agenda, legislation to be addressed during the meeting, and other materials related to the meeting are electronically accessible at <https://www.nccde.org/2351/Agendas-and-Minutes> Members of the public joining the meeting may be provided an opportunity to make comments in real time. A comment period will be administered by a moderator to ensure everyone may have an opportunity to comment.

If permitted to comment, you will not be able to speak until called upon by the moderator. For those appearing virtually, there are functions in the program that allow you to do this. Please see the link in the previous paragraph.

Prime Sponsor(s): Mr. Smiley, Mr. Cartier
Requested By: Administration/Technology
Date of introduction: May 13, 2025

RESOLUTION NO. 25-080

AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF ONE PURCHASE ORDER CONTRACT FOR PICTOMETRY INTERNATIONAL CORPORATION FOR RENEWAL OF AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHY SOFTWARE LICENSES FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION, OFFICE OF TECHNOLOGY AND ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES IN THE AMOUNT OF \$83,070.00

1 **WHEREAS**, *New Castle County Code* § 2.02.004 requires that all contracts involving
2 expenditures of funds in excess of \$50,000.00 in aggregate to one vendor in a fiscal year, which
3 are not competitively bid, be approved by Resolution of County Council; and
4

5 **WHEREAS**, this contract for \$83,070.00 procures new orthographic and oblique aerial
6 imagery, along with associated services and licenses, for use over the next 24 months from
7 Pictometry International Corporation; and
8

9 **WHEREAS**, Pictometry International Corporation provides high-resolution aerial imagery
10 essential for the GIS department to provide accurate and effective visual aids that support a variety
11 of critical county functions while meeting ongoing needs for updated geospatial data.
12

13 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by and for the County Council of New Castle County
14 that County Council hereby approves the contract agreement listed on the attached Exhibit "A,"
15 entitled "New Castle County Purchase Requisition/Justification Form," as a valid contract in excess
16 of \$50,000.00 pursuant to *New Castle County Code* § 2.02.004.

Adopted by County Council of
New Castle County on:

Monique Williams-Johns
President of County Council
of New Castle County

SYNOPSIS: This Resolution approves the execution of the listed contract agreement.

Department of Administration, Technology & Administrative Services

Pictometry International Corporation \$83,070.00

FISCAL IMPACT: This Resolution authorizes the execution of one contract agreement totaling \$83,070.00. Funding is included in the FY2025 Approved Operating Budget in the Department of Administration, Office of Technology and Administrative Services.

Acknowledged by the Chief Financial Officer April 30, 2025.

Jill Floore
Chief Financial Officer

REQUISITIONER INFORMATION			VENDOR INFORMATION				
NAME	Kathleen Green		FISCAL YR	2025	NAME	Pictometry International	
DEPARTMENT	ADMINISTRATION_12		FUND	100 GENERAL	ADDRESS	25 Methodist Hill Drive	
ORGANIZATION	10124005 ADMIN - GIS					Rochester NY 14623	
PHONE	302 395-5257		REQ#	2025/2520646			
DELIVERY LOCATION							
SEND VENDOR PO	☐ YES	☒ NO			CONTACT NAME	Jonathan Broida	
CURRENT VENDOR	☒ YES	☐ NO			PHONE	804 822-5288	EXT
VENDOR #	102216				EMAIL	jonathan.broida@eagleview.com	FAX #

ADDITIONAL NOTES	

I. What is the purpose of the requisition or advice of change?

The purpose of this requisition is to procure new orthographic and oblique aerial imagery, along with associated services and licenses, for use over the next 24 months. The imagery and services will be obtained at a discounted rate, made possible due to the state's prior purchase of a similar base product by the Department of Homeland Security through a contracting company for the State 911 Office. This discount ensures cost savings for the project while meeting ongoing needs for updated geospatial data.

Up-to-date, high-resolution aerial imagery is essential for the GIS department to provide accurate and effective visual aids that support a variety of critical county functions. This includes, but is not limited to, Land Use and Land Cover visualization, Property Assessment, and Public Safety initiatives. The imagery helps in making informed decisions and improving operational efficiency.

If the requisition is not processed, the county will miss out on obtaining updated imagery at a discounted rate. Without a valid Pictometry license, GIS applications integrated with county systems will lose access to necessary imagery, relying instead on outdated data from 2023. We may need to purchase imagery at full market price, leading to higher costs and delays as GIS systems are reconfigured. Access to historical imagery through Eagleview's services could also be temporarily lost, and staff may need retraining to use new platforms, disrupting workflow.

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RESOLUTION NO. 25-081

**TO SET NEW CASTLE COUNTY'S FISCAL YEAR 2026 CONTRIBUTION RATE
FOR THE COUNTY'S PENSION PLANS**

1 **WHEREAS**, *New Castle County Code* Section 26.04.603 ("Actuarial valuations and
2 appropriations") requires that the actuary appointed by the Employees' Retirement System
3 Board of Trustees (hereinafter "Board") determine the normal cost of the Plan required to
4 meet the actuarial cost of current service and the total unfunded accrued liability of the
5 various County pension programs established by *New Castle County Code* Article 4
6 ("Pensions"); and

7
8 **WHEREAS**, the County's contribution to fund the various County pension programs
9 for each fiscal year shall be a percentage of covered payroll approved by the Board and by
10 resolution of County Council; such contributions shall be determined by sound and
11 reasonable actuarial practices and based on the most recent actuarial valuation pursuant to
12 Section 26.04.603; and

13
14 **WHEREAS**, specifically, the recommendation for the four primary County pension
15 plans is 33.94% of covered payroll and \$107,031 for the School crossing guards' pension
16 plan, for a total contribution rate of 34.26%; and

17
18 **WHEREAS**, at its meeting on April 16, 2025, the Board voted to accept the actuary's
19 recommendations; and

20
21 **WHEREAS**, in accordance with Title 11 *Delaware Code* Chapter 88 (Delaware
22 County and Municipal Police/Firefighter Pension Plan) and *New Castle County Code*
23 Section 26.04.501, the State of Delaware estimated that the County's Fiscal Year 2026
24 contribution for police officers in the Delaware County and Municipal Police/Firefighter
25 Pension Plan to be 15.20% of payroll; the estimated County contribution for police officers
26 in the Employees' retirement system is 1.86% of payroll.

27
28 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by and for the County Council of New
29 Castle County that County Council hereby sets and authorizes the contribution for
30 participants in the Alternate pension plan, the Employees' retirement system, the County
31 employees' pension plan, and the County 2011 pension plan to be 33.94% of covered
32 payroll; the School crossing guards' pension plan to be \$107,031; the estimated
33 contribution to the Delaware County and Municipal Police/Firefighter Pension Plan to be
34 15.20% of covered payroll; and the estimated contribution to the Employees' retirement
35 system for Police Officers in the pension plan to be 1.86% of covered payroll for Fiscal
36 Year 2026.

Adopted by County Council of
New Castle County on:

Monique Williams-Johns

President of County Council
New Castle County

SYNOPSIS: This Resolution accepts the recommendation of the Employees' Retirement System Board of Trustees for the percentage of covered payroll funding of the County's primary pension plans for Fiscal Year 2026.

FISCAL NOTE: *New Castle County Code* Section 26.04.603 requires that, on the basis of reasonable actuarial assumptions and tables approved by the Board of Trustees, the actuary shall determine the normal cost of the plan required to meet the actuarial cost of current service and the total unfunded accrued liability of the various County pension programs.

This Resolution, if approved, would change the total County Pension Contribution Rate, for the four primary County pension plans and the School Crossing Guards' pension plan from 37.32% to 34.26%. The total cost to the County for all pension plan contributions, including the County's contribution to the Delaware County and Municipal Police/Firefighter Pension Plan is estimated to be \$34,929,381.

The County's contributions to the following plans are as follows:

Delaware County and Municipal Police/Firefighter Pension Plan (State Pension Plan):	\$7,099,912
School Crossing Guards' Pension Plan (County Pension Plan):	107,031
Employee Retirement System, Alternate Pension Plan, County Employees' Pension Plan, and County 2011 Pension Plan (County Pension Plan):	<u>27,722,438</u>

Total County Contribution to All Pension Plans: \$34,929,381

The overall pension contribution rate of 34.26% for the four primary County pension plans and the School Crossing Guards' pension plan will remain constant for Fiscal Year 2026. However, the rates provided for the Police Pension Plan may vary since the State of Delaware adjusts them accordingly.

Acknowledged by the Chief Financial Officer April 23, 2025.

Prime Sponsor(s): Mr. Smiley, Mr. Cartier
Requested by: Administration/Finance
Date of introduction: May 13, 2025

RESOLUTION NO. 25-082

**APPROVING THE REFUND OF A DUPLICATE TAX PAYMENT ON TAX PARCEL NUMBER
09-018.000-30**

1 **WHEREAS**, Delaware SPCA Holding, LLC Tax Parcel Number 09-018.000-30 located in
2 Council District 1 has submitted to County Council, through the Chief Financial Officer, an
3 affidavit requesting a refund of taxes which they believe were paid in duplicate and which total
4 more than \$20,000.00; and
5

6 **WHEREAS**, the Chief Financial Officer has approved the payment of said refund in the
7 amount of \$30,884.00 on the grounds that said amount was a duplicate payment; and
8

9 **WHEREAS**, the Chief Financial Officer shall not, without the express approval of County
10 Council by Resolution, refund any payment as permitted in §14.03.001, received more than five
11 (5) years prior to the date of receipt by the Office of Finance of the refund application, unless the
12 amount of the refund is not more than twenty thousand dollars (\$20,000.00), in which case the
13 Chief Financial Officer may process it in accordance with the procedures set forth in §14.03.001;
14 and
15

16 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by and for the County Council of New Castle
17 County, that New Castle County Council hereby authorizes the Chief Financial Officer to refund
18 taxes paid in duplicate in the amount of \$30,884.00 to Delaware SPCA Holding, LLC.

Adopted by County Council
of New Castle County on:

Monique Williams-Johns
President of County Council of
New Castle County

SYNOPSIS: This Resolution allows for the refund of a duplicate tax payment on Tax Parcel Number 09-018.000-30 totaling \$30,884.00. According to *New Castle County Code* Article 3, §14.03.001.C, the Chief Financial Officer's authority to approve refunds is limited to \$20,000.00 and pursuant to Article 3, §14.03.002.A, the Chief Financial Officer shall not "without the express approval of County Council by resolution, refund any payment as permitted in §14.03.001, received more than five (5) years prior to the date of receipt by the Office of Finance of the refund application, unless the amount of the refund is not more than twenty thousand dollars (\$20,000.00), in which case the Chief Financial Officer may process it in accordance with the procedures set forth in §14.03.001."

FISCAL NOTE: This Resolution, if adopted, will authorize the refund of a duplicate tax payment in the amount of \$30,884.00 paid in duplicate comprised of taxes.

Acknowledged by the Chief Financial Officer April 30, 2025.

RESOLUTION NO. 25-084

**TO AMEND NEW CASTLE COUNTY COUNCIL PROCEDURAL RULE NO. 4
("REGULAR COUNCIL MEETINGS") RELATING TO ORDER OF BUSINESS**

1 **WHEREAS**, from time to time, it becomes necessary to update and revise New
2 Castle County Council's Procedural Rules; and

3
4 **WHEREAS**, the proposed amendments help clarify the Order of Business for
5 Council Meetings in several ways: by re-ordering similar topics sequentially and,
6 thereby, improving the logical structure of the Rules, which, in turn, avoids or reduces
7 the situations in which Council must move to go out of order; by bringing clarity to the
8 types of presentations and the timing in which one is made to Council; and by
9 eliminating unnecessary and misleading language; and

10
11 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by and for the County Council of New
12 Castle County that County Council hereby amends Council Procedural Rule No. 4.3
13 ("Order of Business") by adding the material that is underscored and deleting the
14 material that is stricken, as set forth below.

15
16 4.3. Order of Business.

17
18 4.3.1. Item A. *Introductory Matters* (*i.e.*, Call to order; Moment of Silence;
19 Pledge of Allegiance; Roll call by Clerk of Council).

20
21 4.3.2. Item B. *Minutes* (*i.e.*, motion to approve as submitted or a motion to
22 correct, amend, and approve) (second, yes-no required).

23
24 4.3.3. Item C. *Announcements* regarding legislation (~~*i.e.*~~ for ex., intention to
25 remove resolution from consent calendar, intention not to introduce
26 legislation, intention to table or lift legislation from the table, or intention
27 to withdraw legislation).

28
29 4.3.4. Item D. *Introduction of ordinances by Clerk of Council*.
30 Council President shall state that all Ordinances shall be considered at
31 the next regular Council meeting with the exception of those items that
32 require Board or Commission recommendations.

33
34 ~~4.3.5. Item E. Reports from special committees.~~

35
36 ~~4.3.6. Item F. Consent calendar. Resolutions that will not be discussed~~
37 ~~on the floor of Council, or objected to, may be considered and~~
38 ~~voted upon as a single item under the 'consent calendar'. If an~~
39 ~~item from the consent calendar is objected to by a Council~~
40 ~~member, or a member of the public, or if a Council member~~
41 ~~intends to offer an amendment to a resolution, it shall be removed~~
42 ~~from the consent calendar and voted upon separately. Procedure~~

for adoption: motion to remove and/or amend items by Council member or public, motion to adopt consent calendar, reading of consent calendar by Clerk of Council, roll call.

4.3.7. Item G. Presentations. Honorary or congratulatory resolutions adopted in consent calendar may be presented separately after adoption of calendar.

Honorary or congratulatory Resolutions adopted as part of the consent calendar may be separately presented immediately following adoption of the consent calendar.

Presentations made at this part of the agenda are limited to Resolutions that have been enacted by County Council. In contrast, individuals or entities that wish to express the merits of their cause shall do so under Item L. Public comment.

4.3.8. Item H. Consideration of resolutions removed from the consent calendar and other resolutions. Sponsor moves that item be read by title only and placed before Council for consideration.

4.3.9. Item I. Consideration of ordinances. Sponsor moves that item be read by title only and placed before Council for consideration. Motion for non-controversial ordinances to be consolidated may be made first.

4.3.10. Item J. Non-controversial and time-sensitive honorary or congratulatory resolutions submitted after the 7-day deadline.

4.3.11. Item K. Consideration of emergency ordinances.

4.3.12. Item L. Public comment/other. Non-emergency ordinances submitted after the expiration of the seven-day deadline but in time to amend the agenda at least six hours before the meeting and that otherwise meet the requirements of the Freedom of Information Act (reason for delay and reason item cannot await the next agenda) shall be introduced under "Other" (second, yes-no). Resolutions submitted after the expiration of the deadline that do not meet the criteria of Rule 4.3.10 (Item J) shall be heard under "Other" so long as the Freedom of Information Act requirements cited above are observed.

4.3.13. Item M. Motion to Adjourn.

4.3.5. Item E. Consent calendar. All items on a consent calendar will be read in and voted on as a single item. However, if an item from the consent calendar is objected to by a Council member or a member of the public, or if a Council member intends to offer an amendment to a resolution, the item must be removed from the consent calendar and voted upon separately.

92 4.3.6. Item F. Consideration of resolutions removed from the consent
93 calendar and other resolutions. Sponsor moves that item be read by
94 title only and placed before Council for consideration.

95
96 4.3.7. Item G. Non-controversial and time-sensitive honorary or
97 congratulatory resolutions submitted after the 7-day deadline.

98
99 4.3.8. Item H. Presentations. Honorary or congratulatory resolutions adopted
100 as part of the consent calendar and other resolutions may be
101 separately presented immediately following adoption of the consent
102 calendar.

103
104 Presentations made at this point of the agenda are limited to
105 resolutions that have been enacted by County Council.

106
107 4.3.9. Item I. Consideration of Ordinances.
108 Sponsor moves that item be read by title only and placed before
109 Council for consideration.

110
111 4.3.10. Item J. Consideration of emergency Ordinances.

112
113 4.3.11. Item K. Public comment/other. Individuals who wish to comment on a
114 matter of public interest may do so at this time. The presiding chair
115 may set reasonable time limits.

116
117 4.3.12. Item L. Motion to Adjourn.

Adopted by County Council
of New Castle County on:

Monique Williams-Johns
President of County Council
of New Castle County

SYNOPSIS: The proposed revisions to New Castle County Council Procedural Rule 4.3 (“Order of Business”) help clarify the Order of Business for Council Meetings in several ways: by re-ordering similar topics sequentially and, thereby, improving the logical structure of the Rules, which, in turn, avoids or reduces the situations in which Council must move to go out of order; by bringing clarity to the types of presentations and the timing in which one is made to Council; and by eliminating unnecessary and misleading language.

FISCAL NOTE: There is no discernible fiscal impact with the adoption of this legislation.

4.3. Order of Business.

- 4.3.1. Item A. *Introductory Matters* (i.e., Call to order; Moment of Silence; Pledge of Allegiance; Roll call by Clerk of Council).
- 4.3.2. Item B. *Minutes* (i.e., motion to approve as submitted or motion to correct, and approve) (second, yes-no required).
- 4.3.3. Item C. *Announcements regarding legislation* (for ex., intention to remove resolution from consent calendar, intention not to introduce legislation, intention to table or lift legislation from the table, or intention to withdraw legislation).
- 4.3.4. Item D. *Introduction of ordinances by Clerk of Council*.
Council President shall state that all Ordinances shall be considered at the next regular Council meeting with the exception of those items that require Board or Commission recommendations.
- 4.3.5. Item E. *Consent calendar*. All items on a consent calendar will be read in and voted on as a single item. However, if an item from the consent calendar is objected to by a Council member or a member of the public, or if a Council member intends to offer an amendment to a resolution, it must be removed from the consent calendar and voted upon separately.
- 4.3.6. Item F. *Consideration of resolutions removed from the consent calendar and other resolutions*. Sponsor moves that item be read by title only and placed before Council for consideration.
- 4.3.7. Item G. Non-controversial and time-sensitive honorary or congratulatory resolutions submitted after the 7-day deadline.
- 4.3.8. Item H. *Presentations*. Honorary or congratulatory resolutions adopted as part of the consent calendar and other resolutions may be separately presented immediately following adoption of the consent calendar.

Presentations made at this point of the agenda are limited to resolutions that have been enacted by County Council.
- 4.3.9. Item I. *Consideration of Ordinances*. Sponsor moves that item be read by title only and placed before Council for consideration. A motion may be made that non-controversial ordinances are to be consolidated and considered first.
- 4.3.10. Item J. *Consideration of emergency Ordinances*.

4.3.11. Item K. *Public comment/other*. Individuals who wish to comment on a matter of public interest may do so at this time. The presiding chair may set reasonable time limits.

4.3.12. Item L. *Motion to Adjourn*.

RESOLUTION NO. 25-085

**TO AMEND NEW CASTLE COUNTY COUNCIL PROCEDURAL RULE NO. 12
("EXPENDITURES FOR TRIPS BY COUNCIL MEMBERS OR EMPLOYEES")
RELATING TO REPORTING**

1 **WHEREAS**, from time to time, it becomes necessary to update and revise New
2 Castle County Council's Procedural Rules; and

3
4 **WHEREAS**, this proposed amendment to Council Rule No. 12 is intended to
5 clarify Council Procedural Rules pertaining to reporting of travel expenses.

6
7 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by and for the County Council of New
8 Castle County that County Council hereby amends Council Procedural Rule No. 12
9 ("Expenditures for Trips by Council Members or Employees") by adding the material
10 that is underscored and deleting the material that is stricken, as set forth below.

11 ...

12 12.2.9. Reporting. Failure to adhere to the Rules and satisfy the requirements
13 of Rule No. 12 may result in a Council Member or staff member being
14 required to reimburse New Castle County Council for all trip related
15 expenses. The Council Clerk must advise a Co-Chair of the Council
16 Finance Committee and a Co-Chair of the Council Personnel Sub-
17 Committee of failure to comply with Council's Rules. The two committee
18 co-chairs will then place the matter on a Council committee meeting
19 agenda for discussion and agreed upon action.

Adopted by County Council
of New Castle County on:

Monique Williams-Johns
President of County Council
of New Castle County

SYNOPSIS: This Resolution proposes revisions to New Castle County Council
Procedural Rule No. 12 ("Expenditures for Trips by Council Members or Employees")
by adding a new Rule No. 12.2.9 ("Reporting") which is intended to clarify the
responsibilities of Council Members and staff regarding reporting of travel expenses.

FISCAL NOTE: There is no discernible fiscal impact.

RESOLUTION NO. 25-086

**TO AMEND NEW CASTLE COUNTY COUNCIL PROCEDURAL RULE NO. 13
("COUNCIL GRANTS") RELATING TO PURCHASES**

1 **WHEREAS**, from time to time, it becomes necessary to update and revise New
2 Castle County Council's Procedural Rules; and

3
4 **WHEREAS**, this proposed amendment to Council Rule No. 13 is intended to
5 clarify the purchases that are permissible, regardless of whether General or Mini
6 Council Grants are utilized for the purchase.

7
8 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by and for the County Council of New
9 Castle County that County Council hereby amends Council Procedural Rule No. 13
10 ("Council Grants") by adding the material that is underscored and deleting the material
11 that is stricken, as set forth below.

12 ...

13 13.1.6.3. **Permissible purchases.**

14 General Grant and Mini Grant funds may be used to purchase tickets
15 for non-political events (for example, a Chamber of Commerce
16 dinner), but such purchases are limited to use by or on behalf of a
17 Council Member and/or Council staff only.

Adopted by County Council
of New Castle County on:

Monique Williams-Johns
President of County Council
of New Castle County

SYNOPSIS: This Resolution proposes revisions to *New Castle County Council Procedural Rule No. 13* ("Council Grants") by adding a new subsection 13.1.6.3 ("*Permissible purchases*") which is intended to clarify that General Grant and Mini Grant funds may be utilized to purchase tickets for non-political events, for example, a Chamber of Commerce dinner, but such purchases are limited to use by or on behalf of a Council Member and/or Council staff only.

FISCAL NOTE: There is no discernible fiscal impact with the adoption of this legislation.

Prime Sponsor(s): Mr. Smiley, Mr. Cartier
Requested by: Administration/Finance
Date of introduction: May 13, 2025

RESOLUTION NO. 25-088

**ADOPTING THE NEW CASTLE COUNTY
CAPITAL PROGRAM FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026 THROUGH 2031**

1 **WHEREAS**, the projects listed on Exhibit "A" are submitted for continuance in accordance
2 with Key Financial Policy (KFP) #1 and accordingly are included in the Fiscal Year 2026 Capital
3 Program; and
4

5 **WHEREAS**, the projects listed on Exhibit "B" will sunset in accordance with KFP #1 on
6 June 30, 2025. All such projects will no longer be active projects and accordingly are deleted
7 from the Fiscal Year 2026 Capital Program.
8

9 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, by and for the County Council of New Castle
10 County that County Council hereby approves the Capital Program for New Castle County for the
11 Fiscal Years 2026 through 2031, beginning July 1, 2025, per the attached capital program and
12 budget book entitled "New Castle County Capital Program and Budget: Fiscal Year 2026-2031."

Adopted by County Council of
New Castle County on:

Monique Williams-Johns

President of County Council
of New Castle County

SYNOPSIS: This Resolution adopts a six-year capital program for the fiscal period beginning July 1, 2025.

FISCAL NOTE: This Resolution would approve the Capital Program of New Castle County for the six fiscal years from July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2031 as required by the State Code. The "New Castle County Capital Program and Budget – Fiscal Year 2026-2031 – Approved" provides detail for these projects and projects previously authorized.

Additionally, this Resolution would sunset 14 projects which will no longer be active projects and accordingly are deleted from the Fiscal Year 2026 Capital Program.

The Capital Program for FY2026 through FY2031 as submitted indicates that planned capital uses/sources of funds for the years FY2026 through FY2031 would be:

USES: FY2026 \$ 84,374,248
FY2027 \$111,963,206
FY2028 \$145,906,103
FY2029 \$ 57,025,670
FY2030 \$134,413,716
FY2031 \$ 49,134,390

TOTAL \$582,817,333

SOURCES: Bonds \$492,127,640
State \$ 200,000
General \$ 59,549,344
Sewer \$ 30,140,349
Other \$ 800,000

TOTAL \$582,817,333

Acknowledged by the Chief Financial Officer May 1, 2025.

EXHIBIT "A"
NEW CASTLE COUNTY
Projects for Continuance
Fiscal Year 2026

R25-088

PROJECT	PROJECT NUMBER
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COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Executive GF Capital Contingency	C118933
Executive SF Capital Contingency	C112301

DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION

Firewall Replacement	C122501
Information Systems Expansion II	C121606
Human Capital Management Platform	C122610
Land Use Information System	C122401
Reassessment 2024	C122101
Sewer and Tax Billing Replacement	C122611
Network Infrastructure Rearchitect and Upgrade	C122612
Register of Wills System	C122203

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY SERVICES

Absalom Jones Senior Center Kiln	C402401
Appoquinimink Library	C400329
Appoquinimink Library Maker Space HVAC	C402610
Carousel Park Indoor Arena Footing	C402620
Claymont Library	C400905
Glasgow Library	C402501
Newark Library	C402301
Rockwood Museum	C402502
Surratte Pool Renovations II	C402004
Surratte Pool Renovations 2026	C402604

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

800 MgHZ Communication Equipment	C209229
800 MgHZ Communication Equipment 2026-2027	C202629
Communications Upgrade	C201108
Communications Upgrade 2026-2027	C202608
EMS Realignment and Building	C202201
EMS Stations	C200710
Overlook Colony	C202202
Police Range / EVOC	C201306
Public Safety Building Renovations	C201505
Public Safety Equipment	C201607
Public Safety Equipment 2026	C202607
Public Safety Southern Facility	C202620
Public Safety Vest Protection Program	C201509
Public Safety Vest Protection Program 2026	C202609

EXHIBIT "A"
NEW CASTLE COUNTY
Projects for Continuance
Fiscal Year 2026

R25-088

PROJECT	PROJECT NUMBER
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DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

Facilities/Equipment

Army Creek Landfill Upgrade	C300126
Brandywine Library HVAC Upgrade	C302107
Building Rehabilitation	C300401
Building Rehabilitation 2021	C302103
Building Rehabilitation 2026-2027	C302601
City/County Building Rehabilitation	C301401
Electric Vehicle Infrastructure	C302421
Fleet Equipment 2023	C302303
Fleet Equipment 2024	C302403
Fleet Equipment 2025	C302503
Fleet Equipment 2026	C302603
Garage Renovations	C301601
General Paving	C309808
General Roof Renovations	C309909
Government Center Electrical Upgrade	C302105
Government Center Parking Lot	C300711
Hazardous Substances and Asbestos Abatement	C309035
HVAC Replacement	C302422
Inspection of Tanks Environmental Control	C308919
PAL Building Rehabilitation	C301713
Security 2021	C302104
Vehicle Lift System	C301204

Parks

Agricultural Preservation	C300330
Banning Park Improvements	C302202
Bechtel Park Improvements	C302424
Brandywine Springs Park Rehabilitation	C300115
Carousel Park	C301408
Community Redevelopment and Reinvestment 2023	C302302
Delcastle Park Improvements	C302110
District Park #5	C300117
Game Court Improvements 2021	C302108
General Parkland Improvements	C300509
General Parkland Improvements 2021	C302101
General Parkland Improvements 2024-2025	C302404
Glasgow Regional Park	C309916
Greenway Systems	C300515
Historic Structure Rehabilitation	C301701
Jester Walking Path	C301608

EXHIBIT "A"
NEW CASTLE COUNTY
Projects for Continuance
Fiscal Year 2026

R25-088

PROJECT	PROJECT NUMBER
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DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS (Continued)

Parks (Continued)

Maintenance Base Renovations	C309809
Middle Run Valley Reforestation	C301402
Open Space Preservation	C302201
Park Bridge Replacements	C302425
Parkland Acquisition	C300331
Pavilion Renovations	C309815
Play Area Improvements 2021	C302109
Play Area Improvements 2024-2025	C302402
Play Area Improvements 2026-2027	C302602
Rockwood Park	C301409
Route 9 TAP Bicycle/Pedestrian Improvements	C302002
Southern Regional Park	C300336
Sports Lighting	C300121
Weiss Park Improvements	C302426

Sewer/Stormwater

Airport Road System Rehabilitation	C301702
Asset Management	C300220
Backwater Valve Improvement	C300101
Brandywine Interceptor Renovation	C301603
Christina River Force Main	C300705
Countywide Drainage Problems	C300413
Delaware City Industrial Sewer Expansion	C301716
Delaware City System Rehabilitation	C301705
DelDOT Coordination Project II	C301303
DelDOT Coordination Project 2021	C302112
Edgemoor System Rehabilitation	C301708
General Sewer Improvements	C300622
General Stormwater Improvements 2021	C302115
Kirkwood Trunkline Interceptor	C301004
Lea Eara Farms Treatment Plant Closure	C301712
Manhole Rehabilitation	C302620
Market Street System Rehabilitation	C301703
Market Street System Rehabilitation Bridge #9	C302301
North Delaware Interceptor System	C300612
Port Penn System Rehabilitation	C301709
Public Works Complex	C300107
Pump Station Rehabilitation 2022-2023	C302214
Pump Station Rehabilitation 2024-2025	C302414
Pump Station Rehabilitation 2026-2027	C302614

EXHIBIT "A"
NEW CASTLE COUNTY
Projects for Continuance
Fiscal Year 2026

R25-088

PROJECT	PROJECT NUMBER
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DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS (Continued)

Sewer/Stormwater (Continued)

Richardson Park Pump Station Upgrade	C300618
Richardson Park System Rehabilitation	C301704
Septage Receiving Station Upgrade	C300708
Sewer Fleet Equipment 2024	C302413
Sewer Fleet Equipment 2025	C302513
Sewer Fleet Equipment 2026	C302613
Sewer Repairs and Rehabilitation 2022-2023	C302211
Sewer Repairs and Rehabilitation 2024-2025	C302411
Sewer Repairs and Rehabilitation 2026-2027	C302611
Sewer System Expansion	C302003
Southern Sewer Service Area	C309603
Stoney Creek Basin Rehabilitation	C301604
Stormwater Basin Renovation II	C301305
Terminal Avenue System Rehabilitation	C301707
Turkey Run Interceptor Rehabilitation	C300224
Water Farm 1 System Rehabilitation	C301714
Water Quality Improvement Plans	C301903
White Clay System Rehabilitation	C301710
Wilmington System Rehabilitation	C301711

EXHIBIT "B"
NEW CASTLE COUNTY
Projects to Sunset Fiscal Year End 2025

DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION

C122205	Human Resources Scanning	Complete
C122202	Recorder of Deeds HOA Portal	Complete

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

C202301	Cardiac Monitors	Complete
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DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

Facilities/Equipment

C302102	Fleet Equipment 2021	Complete
C302203	Fleet Equipment 2022	Complete

Parks

C300510	Game Court Improvements	Complete
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Sewer/Stormwater

C300218	Brandywine Hundred South Rehabilitation Phase I	Complete
C300615	Christiana Pump Station Upgrade	Complete
C300004	Delaware City Treatment Plant Rehabilitation	Complete
C301102	Glasgow Area Sewer Improvements	Complete
C301801	Holloway Terrace Outfall	Complete
C302313	Sewer Fleet Equipment 2023	Complete
C301304	Sewer Repairs and Rehabilitation II	Complete
C301902	SR 72 Sewer Extension	Complete

RESOLUTION NO. 25-090

**IN SUPPORT OF ACTIONS BY THE DELAWARE GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO
UPDATE *DELAWARE CODE* TITLE 14, SECTION 1902
REGARDING TAX EXEMPTIONS AND MODIFICATION THEREOF**

1 **WHEREAS**, County Council has strived to ensure that senior citizens and
2 residents with disabilities are able to remain in their homes by offering benefits, including
3 access to and eligibility for property tax exemptions, to qualified members of those
4 populations; and
5

6 **WHEREAS**, New Castle County has recently undergone a countywide
7 reassessment of property values that has all properties assessed at their July 1, 2024 fair
8 market value, which rendered the allowable assessment exemptions relating to the
9 elderly and disability property tax exemptions too low and incompatible with the
10 exemptions' purposes; and
11

12 **WHEREAS**, County Council concluded that it is in the best interests of all residents
13 of New Castle County to extend the benefits of the elderly exemption and the disability
14 exemption to those residents who would not qualify under existing income eligibility
15 criteria, as well as to increase the amount of both exemptions for County tax purposes;
16 and
17

18 **WHEREAS**, 14 *Del. C.* § 1902(a)(3) exempts from school tax any property that
19 receives an exemption pursuant to a County property tax exemption that existed as of or
20 before January 1, 1998; and
21

22 **WHEREAS**, as of January 1, 1998, County property tax exemptions existed for the
23 elderly, disabled and disabled veterans such that a property owner who satisfied those
24 requirements would be entitled to an exemption from school taxes, and the County has
25 continued to recognize such exemptions from school taxes; and
26

27 **WHEREAS**, it is the intent of County Council to preserve exemptions for school
28 tax purposes based on County law as it existed as of January 1, 1998 and to create fair
29 and equivalent exemptions for County tax purposes based upon updated income and
30 assessed property value amounts and residency requirements; and
31

32 **WHEREAS**, it is the intent of County Council that any person currently approved
33 for an elderly or disabled exemption need not submit a new application but is to receive
34 an increase in the amount of the exemption as established by a recently-enacted
35 ordinance of County Council.

36 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by and for the County Council of New
37 Castle County that County Council hereby supports actions taken by the Delaware
38 General Assembly to update *Delaware Code* Title 14, Section 1902 regarding tax
39 exemptions and the ability for New Castle County to modify such exemption amounts by
40 ordinance.

Adopted by County Council of
New Castle County on:

Monique Williams-Johns
President of County Council
of New Castle County

SYNOPSIS: Same as title.

FISCAL NOTE: There is no discernible fiscal impact with the adoption of this legislation.



SPONSOR: Rep. K. Williams & Sen. Walsh

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
153rd GENERAL ASSEMBLY

HOUSE BILL

AN ACT TO AMEND TITLE 14 OF THE DELAWARE CODE RELATING TO SCHOOL PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTIONS.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF DELAWARE:

1 Section 1. Amend § 1902, Title 14 of the Delaware Code by making deletions as shown by strike through and
2 insertions as shown by underline as follows:

3 § 1902. Power of district to levy taxes for school purposes.

4 (a) Any district may, in addition to the amounts apportioned to it by the Department of Education or appropriated
5 to it by the General Assembly, levy and collect additional taxes for school purposes upon the assessed value of all taxable
6 real estate in the district, except any of the following:

7 (3) Real estate exempt from taxation under a county ordinance adopted on or before January 1, 1998, granting,
8 clarifying, or expanding any exemption from county taxation. Upon a county-wide reassessment under § 8306(b) of
9 Title 9, a county shall, by subsequent county ordinance, modify these exemption amounts.

SYNOPSIS

This Act gives a county, upon a county-wide reassessment of real property under § 8306(b) of Title 9, the authority to adopt an ordinance modifying the school property tax exemption amounts that were put in place on or before January 1, 1998. In doing so, this Act protects seniors and individuals with disabilities from significant school tax increases related to county-wide reassessments of property values.

ORDINANCE NO. 25-044

**AMEND THE FY2025 CAPITAL PROGRAM AND BUDGET: APPROPRIATE \$16,820,000
IN FUNDING RECEIVED FROM THE STATE OF DELAWARE, DEPARTMENT OF
TRANSPORTATION TO THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, CHRISTINA RIVER
FORCE MAIN CAPITAL PROJECT**

1 **WHEREAS**, Chapter 22 of Title 9 of the *Delaware Code*, as amended, authorizes New
2 Castle County to plan, acquire, purchase, construct, reconstruct, improve, better and extend,
3 and maintain and operate sewerage systems therein defined, and the County Council of New
4 Castle County has determined to repair, replace, and provide redundancy to the existing
5 Christina River Force Main system now maintained by the County over an extended period;
6 and

7
8 **WHEREAS**, it has been deemed necessary to appropriate up to \$33,000,000 for the
9 installation of (i) approximately 2,000 linear feet ("LF") of new 84-inch force main piping to
10 serve as permanent bypass piping around the Heald Street Bridge, (ii) approximately 5,700
11 LF of 84- inch force main piping to serve as permanent bypass piping around the Market
12 Street Bridge, and (iii) approximately 2,000 LF of a new 36-inch force main extending from
13 the Market Street Pump Station (collectively, the "Project"); and

14
15 **WHEREAS**, the Project is part of the ongoing rehabilitation of the Christina River Force
16 Main to prevent sanitary sewer incidents that decrease water quality and have negative
17 environmental and public health impacts on wildlife, residents, and commercial entities; and;

18
19 **WHEREAS**, Resolution 24-110 authorized the County Executive to execute a financing
20 agreement in connection with the funding of the Project, for up to \$33,000,000 with the
21 Delaware Water Pollution Control Revolving Fund, acting by and through the Delaware
22 Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control; and

23
24 **WHEREAS**, Ordinance 24-080 provided for additional clarification of the funding of the
25 Project, with resources allocated from the Southern Sewer Service Area Capital Project and
26 the Richardson Park Pump Station Upgrade Capital Project to this Project; and

27
28 **WHEREAS**, DelDOT desires to replace existing bridge infrastructure on Heald Street
29 and both DelDOT and the County agree it is mutually beneficial to redirect the wastewater
30 flow from current portion of the CRFM and take it offline while the Heald Street bridge is
31 installed and to install a new, redundant portion of the CRFM to convey this redirected
32 wastewater flow; and

33
34 **WHEREAS**, the County and DelDOT have agreed to share the costs associated with
35 the installation of the new CRFM around DelDOT's Heald Street bridge replacement and to
36 rehabilitate the existing portion of the CRFM, with DelDOT agreeing to contribute \$16,820,000
37 to the County.
38

39 **NOW, THEREFORE, THE COUNTY OF NEW CASTLE HEREBY ORDAINS:**
40

41 Section 1. The Capital Budget Ordinance for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2024 is
42 hereby amended by deleting the material that is stricken and adding the material that is
43 underscored on the attached Exhibit "A."
44

45 Section 2. The Capital Program Resolution for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2024
46 is hereby amended by deleting the material that is stricken and adding the material that is
47 underscored on the attached Exhibit "B."
48

49 Section 3. This Ordinance shall become effective immediately upon its adoption by
50 Council and approval by the County Executive, or as otherwise provided by 9 Del. C. § 1156.

Adopted by County Council of
New Castle County on:

Monique Williams-Johns
President of County Council
of New Castle County

Approved on:

Marcus Henry
County Executive
New Castle County

SYNOPSIS: This Ordinance, if approved, will permit the County to accept funding totaling \$16,820,000 from the State of Delaware, Department of Transportation (DelDOT) in connection with its Christina Force Main Capital Project. This funding is needed as part of the ongoing rehabilitation of the Christina Force Main to prevent sanitary sewer incidents that decrease water quality and have negative environmental and public health impacts on wildlife, residents, and commercial entities.

FISCAL IMPACT: This Ordinance, if approved, will amend the FY2025 Capital Budget by appropriating \$16,820,000 in funding received from the State of Delaware, Department of Transportation (DelDOT) to the Department of Public Works, Christina River Force Main Capital Project.

The revised FY2025 Capital Budget amount for the Christina River Force Main Capital Project will be \$57,820,000.

The revised FY2025 New Castle County Capital Budget grand total will be \$99,154,005.

Acknowledged by the Chief Financial Officer on April 10, 2025.

EXHIBIT "A"
NEW CASTLE COUNTY
CAPITAL BUDGET - FY2025

25-044

DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION

Firewall Replacement	\$	425,000
Reassessment 2024		5,000,000

Subtotal	\$	5,425,000
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DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY SERVICES

Appoquinimink Library	\$	54,482
Glasgow Library		150,000
Newark Library		8,200,000
Rockwood Museum		175,000
Surratte Pool Renovations		50,000

Subtotal	\$	8,629,482
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DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

Public Safety Equipment	\$	136,000
Public Safety Vest Protection Program		264,515

Subtotal	\$	400,515
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DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

Facilities/Equipment

Electric Vehicle Infrastructure	\$	1,616,398
Fleet Equipment 2022		(450,000)
Fleet Equipment 2023		(1,900,000)
Fleet Equipment 2024		49,590
Fleet Equipment 2025		6,510,906

Subtotal	\$	5,826,894
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EXHIBIT "A"
NEW CASTLE COUNTY
CAPITAL BUDGET - FY2025

25-044

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS (Continued)

Parks

Agricultural Preservation	\$	1,000,000
Bechtel Park Improvements		2,250,000
Game Court Improvements Pre-2021		(106,744)
Game Court Improvements 2021		181,744
General Parkland Improvements 2024-2025		750,000
Greenway Systems		1,029,600
Open Space Preservation		1,500,000
Southern Regional Park		4,400,000
Subtotal	\$	11,004,600

Sewer/Stormwater

Airport Road System Rehabilitation	\$	2,500,000
Brandywine Hundred South Rehabilitation Phase I		(450,000)
Christiana Pump Station Upgrade		(500,000)
Christina River Force Main	41,000,000	57,820,000
Countywide Drainage Problems		(500,000)
Delaware City Industrial Sewer Expansion		(2,500,000)
Delaware City Treatment Plant Rehab		(500,000)
DeIDOT Coordination Project 2021		(500,000)
General Sewer Improvements		1,000,000
Glasgow Area Sewer Improvements		(400,000)
Holloway Terrace Outfall Replace		(1,000,000)
Public Works Complex		400,000
Pump Station Rehab 2024-2025		500,000
Septage Receiving Station Upgrade		300,000
Sewer Fleet Equipment 2022		(3,051)
Sewer Fleet Equipment 2023		(764,800)
Sewer Fleet Equipment 2025		2,665,366
Sewer Repairs and Rehabilitation 2024-2025		2,000,000
Stormwater Basin Renovation II		1,500,000
Terminal Avenue System Rehabilitation		(500,000)
Water Farm #1 System Rehabilitation		300,000
Water Quality Improvement Plans		2,400,000
White Clay System Rehabilitation		4,100,000
Subtotal	51,047,515	\$ 67,867,515

CAPITAL BUDGET TOTAL

82,334,005 **\$

99,154,005**

EXHIBIT B**PROJECT PROFILES
PUBLIC WORKS - SEWER/STORMWATER**

Project Name (Number): Christina River Force Main (C300705)					
Description: Evaluation of the Christina River Force Main (CRFM) to determine present condition and develop a long-term plan.				Council Districts: All	
Funding Schedule					
	Bonds	Federal	State	Other	Total
Prior Authorizations	\$ 15,581,576	\$ -	\$ 49,659,005	\$ 4,343,424	\$ 69,584,005
FY2025	41,000,000	-	-	-	41,000,000
			16,820,000		57,820,000
FY2026	-	-	-	-	-
FY2027	35,000,000	-	-	-	35,000,000
FY2028	1,000,000	-	-	-	1,000,000
FY2029	8,000,000	-	-	-	8,000,000
FY2030	3,000,000	-	-	-	3,000,000
Future Years	340,000,000	-	-	-	340,000,000
Total	\$ 443,581,576	\$ -	\$ 49,659,005	\$ 4,343,424	\$ 497,584,005
			\$ 66,479,005		\$ 514,404,005
Available Authorizations:		\$ 5,487,711			
Available Funding:		\$ 1,491,180			
Operating Budget Impact:		\$ 90,200			

*Available Authorizations / Funding as of February 29, 2024, net of obligations.

FY2025 Activity:

Begin to construct Heald Street. Complete Market Street Design. Installation of (i) approximately 2,000 linear feet ("LF") of new 84-inch force main piping to serve as permanent bypass piping around the Heald Street Bridge, (ii) approximately 5,700 LF of 84-inch force main piping to serve as permanent bypass piping around the Market Street Bridge, and (iii) approximately 2,000 LF of a new 36-inch force main extending from the Market Street Pump Station (collectively, the "Project"). Per the Heald Street and CRFM Cost Sharing Agreement between DelDOT/State of Delaware and New Castle County, funding in the amount of \$16,820,000 has been allocated to New Castle County to assist with the construction of the Heald Street CRFM.

Future Activity:

Construction of phased CRFM redundant system, continue assessment and protection of existing CRFM.

Prime Sponsor(s): Mr. Cartier
Requested by: Land Use
Date of introduction: April 22, 2025

ORDINANCE NO. 25-046

**TO AMEND NEW CASTLE COUNTY CODE CHAPTER 7
("PROPERTY MAINTENANCE CODE"), ARTICLE 2
("REGISTRATION AND PAYMENT OF FEES FOR VACANT
PREMISES")**

1 **WHEREAS**, the proliferation of vacant premises and their detrimental effect on
2 neighborhoods has become a national problem, and
3

4 **WHEREAS**, a vacant property may become an eyesore, a fire hazard, a wildlife
5 refuge, a shelter for transients, a center for illicit drug traffic and use, a target for graffiti
6 and vandalism, an asylum for vermin, a health hazard, a general community nuisance,
7 and degrade adjoining properties and their values, causing the County to expend funds
8 for police, fire service, community service and code enforcement oversight and response;
9 and
10

11 **WHEREAS**, in short, it has been recognized that law enforcement, fire
12 departments and other government services must be expended in disproportionate
13 measures to protect the general public in areas surrounding vacant premises; and
14

15 **WHEREAS**, jurisdictions in the State of Delaware and throughout the nation have
16 recognized that vacant property registration fees specifically benefit the owners of vacant
17 premises by financing in part additional government services required to protect the value
18 and security of the vacant buildings and problems created by them; and
19

20 **WHEREAS**, vacant buildings and structures often deteriorate over time, becoming
21 structurally unstable and prone to collapse, creating additional risks for first responders,
22 particularly fire department personnel, during emergency operations: and
23

24 **WHEREAS**, Delaware law provides that lien or liens arise when fees are imposed
25 by law or ordinance of any political subdivision of the State (including the County Council
26 of any County) and include without limitation, fees for registration of ownership of any
27 vacant buildings located within that political subdivision (25 *Del. C.* Section 2901(a)(1)(j))
28 and
29

30 **WHEREAS**, Delaware courts have found that vacant property registration is the
31 property exercise of governmental authority to protect the health, safety and welfare of
32 the citizenry and is a valid regulatory scheme with a reasonable fee based on the effect
33 of property left vacant for a length of time; and

34 **WHEREAS**, the County desires to establish measures to minimize the risk posed
35 by vacant buildings by requiring owners to maintain safe conditions, including fire
36 prevention and the ability for fire departments to access and properly respond to
37 emergencies at these sites: and

38
39 **WHEREAS**, this ordinance seeks to discourage vacancy, maintain unoccupied
40 buildings to an acceptable community standard by increasing the fee to the parties
41 responsible for vacant buildings for the increased police, fire and code enforcement costs
42 associated with the risks of vandalism, arson, loitering, pests, crime and other economic
43 and social costs to said buildings.

44 **NOW, THEREFORE, THE COUNTY OF NEW CASTLE HEREBY ORDAINS:**

45 Section 1. *New Castle County Code* Chapter 7 (“Property
46 Maintenance Code”), Article 2 (“District Intensity and Bulk Standards”),
47 Section 40.04.110. (“Registration and Payment of Fees for Vacant
48 Premises”) is hereby amended by adding the underlined language and
49 deleting the language that is stricken as set forth, below.

50 Article 2. – REGISTRATION, AND PAYMENT OF FEES, **SIGNAGE AND**
51 **INSPECTION REQUIREMENTS** FOR VACANT PREMISES

52 Sec.7.02.003.

53 A. *Annual registration fees.* On or about November 1 of each calendar year,
54 the Department shall provide notice to all registrants that vacant
55 registration statements must be renewed. The notice shall provide the
56 applicable annual registration fee. The responsible party shall submit the
57 applicable form and the non-refundable registration fee before January 1 of
58 each calendar year.

59 1. Escalating fee schedule. The fee schedule reflects the inevitable
60 increased social and economic costs associated with long-term
61 vacancy and also is intended to encourage rehabilitation, use and
62 occupancy of the premises. The annual fee for each vacant premises
63 shall be based upon the term of continuous vacancy as follows:

64 a. Less than one (1) year: ~~One~~ **Two** hundred **fifty** dollars (~~\$100.00~~ **\$250.00**).

65 b. One (1) year and up to two (2) years: ~~Five~~ **Seven** hundred **fifty** dollars
66 (~~\$500.00~~ **\$750.00**).

67 c. Two (2) years and up to three (3) years: **Two** thousand **five hundred**
68 dollars (~~\$1,000.00~~ **\$2,500.00**).

69 d. Three (3) years and up to five (5) years: ~~Two~~ **Five** thousand dollars
70 (~~\$2,000.00~~ **\$5,000.00**).

e. Five (5) years and up to ten (10) years **greater**: ~~Three~~ **Seven** thousand five hundred dollars (~~\$3500.00~~ **\$7,500.00**) **plus an additional one thousand dollars (\$1,000) for each additional year over five (5).**

f. ~~Ten (10) years or greater: Five thousand dollars (\$5000.00) plus an additional (\$500.00) for each additional year over ten (10).~~

2. In addition to the above registration fee, for office, commercial or industrial buildings over 500,000 square feet, an additional fee of one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00) per 100,000 square feet over 500,000 square feet shall also be added. This fee will be prorated based on the actual square footage.

3. In addition to the above registration fee, the owner shall be charged an additional one hundred dollars (\$100.00) for each inspection of the property made by the Department of Land Use for as long as it shall remain vacant.

Sec.7.02.008. Placard Requirements.

A. Placards. Any vacant or abandoned buildings or structures determined to be unsafe pursuant to Section 108 relating to structural or interior hazards shall be marked with a placard(s) by the Code Official and the costs of the placard and installation will be charged to the property owner.

B. Placard Location. Placards shall be applied on the front of the structure and be visible from the street. Additional placards will be applied to each entrance of buildings with more than one main entrance.

C. Placard Size and Color. Placards shall be 24 inches by 24 inches (610 mm by 610 mm) minimum in size with a red background, white reflective stripes that form an X and a white reflective border. The stripes and border shall have a 2-inch (51 mm) minimum stroke.

D. Sec.7.02.009 Inspection Required

All buildings and structures vacant for five (5) consecutive years are required to be inspected by a design professional. The design professional shall submit a report to the Code Official documenting any structural or fire safety concerns in addition to any health, safety or welfare issues.

Section 3. This Ordinance shall become effective, after its adoption by County Council and approval by the County Executive, or as otherwise provided in 9 Del. C. § 1156.

Adopted by County Council of
New Castle County on:

Monique Williams-Johns
President of County Council
New Castle County

Approved on:

Marcus A. Henry
County Executive of New Castle County

SYNOPSIS: This Ordinance increases the existing vacant registration fees, requires placards to be installed on unsafe, vacant premises and requires an inspection of vacant premises when the building or structure has been vacant for 5 consecutive years.

FISCAL NOTE: This Ordinance, if approved, will result in an estimated increase in General Fund revenue of \$780,000 per year with no discernable increase in expenses.

Acknowledged by the Chief Financial Officer April 14, 2025.

Prime Sponsor(s): Mr. Cartier
Requested by: Administration
Date of introduction: April 22, 2025

ORDINANCE NO. 25-047

TO AMEND NEW CASTLE COUNTY CODE CHAPTER 14 ("FINANCE AND TAXATION"), ARTICLE 6 ("EXEMPTION FROM REAL PROPERTY TAXATION") REGARDING PARTIAL COUNTY PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION FOR PROPERTY OWNED BY LOW-INCOME RESIDENTS

1 **WHEREAS**, upon completion of the certified tax roll at the conclusion of the first
2 county-wide reassessment in over forty years, and

3
4 **WHEREAS**, the 2024 US Census report indicates 10.9% of New Castle County
5 residents are living in poverty, and

6
7 **WHEREAS**, Council has concluded that it is in the interest of residents of New
8 Castle County to provide a one-year partial low-income property tax exemption following
9 reassessment, which will be reviewed upon implementation to guide future consideration
10 for continuation or alternative assistance.

11
12 **NOW, THEREFORE, THE COUNTY OF NEW CASTLE HEREBY ORDAINS:**

13
14 **Section 1.** Division 14.06.900 of the *New Castle County Code* is hereby amended
15 by adding the material that is underscored and deleting the material that is stricken, as set
16 forth below:

17
18 **Division 14.06.900. - ~~Reserved.~~ Property owned by low-income residents.**

19
20 **Sec. 14.06.901. - Definitions.**

21
22 The following words, terms, and phrases, when used in this Division, shall have the
23 meanings ascribed to them in this Section, except where the context clearly
24 indicates a different meaning:

25
26 *Income* means adjusted gross income, as defined under the Internal Revenue Code of
27 1986 or any successor thereto, as amended from time to time, but excluding social
28 security and tier 1 railroad retirement benefits, plus the amount of capital gains excluded
29 from such adjusted gross income. For any fiscal year for which an exemption is claimed,
30 income shall be the income received during the calendar year immediately preceding the
31 fiscal year for which exemption is sought.

32
33 *Resident* means one legally domiciled within the State as of July 1 of the fiscal year for
34 which exemption is sought. Mere seasonal or temporary residence within the State, of
35 whatever duration, shall not constitute domicile within the State. Absence from the State
36 for a period of twelve (12) months shall be prima facie evidence of abandonment of
37 domicile in the State. The burden of establishing domicile shall be upon the claimant.
38

41 **Sec. 14.06.902. - Qualifications for and amount of low-income County property tax**
42 **exemption.**
43

44 A. A person is entitled to a low-income exemption from County property taxes for
45 tax year 2026 not to exceed one hundred seventy-three thousand dollars
46 (\$173,000) of the assessed value of real property owned by the person, if the
47 person meets all of the following:
48

- 49 1. On or before June 1, 2025, the person submits to the Assessment
50 Division an application on the prescribed form.
51
- 52 2. The house on the real property is the person's principal residence.
53
- 54 3. The assessed value of the real property does not exceed four hundred
55 sixty-nine thousand dollars (\$469,000).
56
- 57 4. The person's income as defined in Section 14.06.901 does not exceed
58 fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) per year or, if the person is married, the
59 combined income of the person and the person's spouse does not
60 exceed fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) per year.
61
- 62 5. The person is a resident as defined in Section 14.06.901 and has been
63 legally domiciled within the State of Delaware for a period of ten (10)
64 consecutive years before July 1 of the year for which exemption is
65 sought.
66
- 67 6. The person either does not owe any taxes or sewer service charges
68 collectible by New Castle County or is enrolled in an approved payment
69 plan and has timely paid all payments and continues to do so until the
70 payment plan is complete.
71
- 72 7. The person is not receiving an elderly or disabled veteran County tax
73 exemption under 14.06.302 and 14.06.303.
74

75 B. *Exemption may be forfeited.* The Office of Finance may treat an exemption
76 granted under this Section as having been forfeited by a person if the person
77 fails to remain current on payment of any taxes or sewer service charges in
78 accordance with and for the duration of any agreement with New Castle
79 County.
80

81 C. *Transfer of low-income exemption.* If a person who qualifies for a low-income
82 exemption transfers the property for which the exemption was granted and
83 acquires a new property (which is the principal residence), the person may
84 transfer the exemption to the new residence upon the submission and approval of
85 a new application for exemption, accompanied by proper documentation of the
86 transfer.
87

88 D. Applications for exemption pursuant to this Section are applicable for tax year 2026
89 only.

90
91 **Section 2.** Section 14.06.1103 of the *New Castle County Code* is hereby amended
92 by adding the material that is underscored and deleting the material that is stricken, as set
93 forth below:

94
95 **Sec. 14.06.1103. - Filing frequency.**

96
97 C. Applications for exemption pursuant to Division 14.06.900, relating to low-
98 income resident exemptions are applicable to tax year 2026 only.

99
100 **Section 3.** This Ordinance will become effective immediately upon its adoption by
101 County Council and approval by the County Executive or as otherwise provided by 9 *Del.*
102 C. § 1156.

Adopted by County Council of
New Castle County on:

Monique Williams-Johns
President of County Council
of New Castle County

Approved on:

Marcus Henry
County Executive
New Castle County

SYNOPSIS: This Ordinance, if approved, amends Division 14.06.900, currently reserved, to create a partial property tax exemption for low-income residents for tax year 2026 only and it provides for a filing deadline of June 1, 2025 for such exemptions.

FISCAL NOTE: This Ordinance, if approved, would reduce an estimated \$1,300,000.0, or 1.34% of total taxable assessments across all County parcels. The fiscal impact would be reflected in the roll back tax rate calculations required as a result of reassessment and spread over the remaining eligible taxable assessments for fiscal year 2026. It is estimated the maximum number of eligible recipients is 7,514, with a maximum tax discount of \$276 for a residential parcel in unincorporated New Castle County.

Acknowledged by the Chief Financial Officer April 14, 2025.

REVISED
Grant Matrix
5/19/25

GRANT APPLICANT	AMOUNT REQUESTED / AMOUNT PROPOSED	INTENDED USE OF GRANT	Standard Accounting Practices/ Non-Discrimination Policy	PRIOR COUNCIL GRANTS IN CURRENT FISCAL YEAR	COUNCIL MEMBER
United Way of Delaware	\$5000/\$5000	Funds will be used for a sponsorship for their 30 th Annual AFL-CIO Labor Engagement Golf Tournament on 9/5/25.	Yes/ Yes	Yes -funds were received in the previous fiscal year.	Sheldon
Bear-Glasgow Family YMCA (YMCA of DE)	\$2000/\$2000	Funds will be used for their continuing operational improvements of their summer camp, Camp Cassey	Yes/Yes	Yes -7/23/24 - \$810	Tackett
Cranston Heights Fire Company	\$2831.80/ \$2831.80	Funds will be used to purchase two Simulaid Rescue Randy realistic training manikins with articulated joints.	Yes/Yes	No	Toole
Five Points Fire Company	\$2500/\$2500	Funds will be used to provide meals for their EMTs for EMT appreciation week.	Yes/Yes	Yes 9/17/24 - \$2500	Toole
Christiana Fire Company	\$4032/\$4032 Toole-\$2688 Tackett-\$1344	Funds will be used to purchase 3 new thermal imaging cameras (TICs).	Yes/Yes	No	Toole/ Tackett
Phoenix Family Resources	\$13,300/\$2500	Funds will be used to support their critical efforts to address food insecurity in New Castle County, specifically around the Rt. 9 corridor and for a volunteer appreciation luncheon	Yes/Yes	No	Toole
Four Seasons Homeowners Association	\$1750/\$1750	Funds will be used to purchase boulders to place around cul de sac to keep vehicles from driving through their newly developed pollinator gardens	Yes/No	No	George
Interfaith Housing of DE, Inc.	\$7500/\$7500	Funds will be used to assist with the development of 12 new construction single-family affordable housing units. The units will be sold to first-time home buyers that earn less than 80% of area median income.	Yes/Yes	No	Carter

Shiloh Baptist Church	\$4000/\$4000 Street - \$2500 Hollins - \$1000	Funds will be used for a series of community empowerment activities that promote financial literacy, youth violence prevention, and overall health and wellness within the community.	Yes/No	No	Street/ Hollins
Cannonshire Maintenance Association	\$1000/\$1000	Funds will be used to replace planters for their three landscaped islands	Yes/No	No	George