

Wilmington, Delaware  
December 1, 2016

#4297

**Sponsor:**

**Council  
Member  
D. Brown**

**WHEREAS**, Wilmington City Council has enacted Section 2-3 of the Wilmington City Code regarding the authorization and procedures for naming City streets, parks, playgrounds, plazas, buildings, facilities, statues, monuments, and other lands reserved for public use in order to commemorate a particular person and his/her social significance to the City; and

**WHEREAS**, Section 2-3 states that if it is proposed that a part of, or any facility within, a street or reserved land that is subject to this section be named or renamed in honor of or dedicated to any person, place or event that is different from the rest of it or that is different than that within which it is located, such naming or renaming may be done by resolution of City Council pursuant to subsection (d) of this section, while retaining the name of the rest of the street or park or other reserved land within which the park facility or object so dedicated is located; and

**WHEREAS**, Brown-Burton-Winchester Memorial Park, which generally extends from Vandever Avenue north to 30<sup>th</sup> Street, between Northeast Boulevard and Market Street, was named after Clifford Brown, Len Winchester and Robert Burton, all of whom were accomplished black musicians and Wilmington residents; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Wilmington and the community of Price's Run want to commemorate Vice President Joe Biden's early connections to the park through the renaming of the Brown-Burton-Winchester Memorial Park Pool House to "United States Vice President Joseph R. Biden, Jr. Aquatic Center" at the Brown-Burton-Winchester Memorial Park as an honor to Delaware's own Joe Biden while retaining the historical significance of the original park name; and

**WHEREAS,** Vice-President Biden’s stellar political career dates back to 1969 when he was first elected as a Council Member of the New Castle County government and went on to represent Delaware for 36 years in the U.S. Senate before becoming the 47<sup>th</sup> Vice President of the United States in 2008; and

**WHEREAS,** in the summer of 1962 during a period of racial dissent, and long before he began his career in public service, Joe Biden worked as the only white lifeguard at the Price’s Run pool. He has related stories many times about how his lifeguard experience would help shape who he became as an adult by interacting with people of all backgrounds, learning to deal with differing views, being educated about race relations, and understanding more about how people learn or are taught to respect each other; and

**WHEREAS,** Joe Biden’s career accomplishments with regard to improving race relations, sponsoring legislation to prevent violence against women and to reduce gun violence, and working at home or abroad as Chairman of the Senate Judiciary and Foreign Relations Committees to end conflicts among people, can all be traced back to his time as a lifeguard at Price’s Run pool—a period during which a young man began to learn about people and about how to lead and serve.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WILMINGTON,** that City Council hereby approves the change to the current name of the Brown-Burton-Winchester Memorial Park Pool House, to “United States Vice President Joseph R. Biden, Jr. Aquatic Center.”

Passed by City Council,

Approved as to form this \_\_\_\_\_  
day of December, 2016.

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk

\_\_\_\_\_  
Assistant City Solicitor