

RESOLUTION NO. 2026-32

A RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING AMERICA 250, DELAWARE 250, NEW CASTLE 375, AND SEPARATION DAY AND AFFIRMING THE CITY OF NEW CASTLE'S HISTORIC SIGNIFICANCE

WHEREAS, in 1651, Peter Stuyvesant established Fort Casimir on the Delaware River to secure Dutch control of river commerce and navigation, and the settlement that would become the City of New Castle traces its origins to that founding; and

WHEREAS, the year 2026 marks the **375th anniversary** of the founding of the City of New Castle; and

WHEREAS, the year 2026 marks the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence and the founding of the United States of America, known nationally as **America 250**; and

WHEREAS, the State of Delaware will commemorate its own 250th anniversary through **Delaware 250**, recognizing the State's central role in the founding of the nation and its distinction as the First State to ratify the United States Constitution; and

WHEREAS, on June 15, 1776, the representatives of the three Lower Counties meeting in New Castle formally declared their separation from both the British Crown and the Colony of Pennsylvania, thereby establishing an independent Delaware government and setting the stage for Delaware's participation in the birth of a new nation; and

WHEREAS, this historic action is commemorated annually as **Separation Day** and remains one of the most significant events in Delaware history; and

WHEREAS, the City of New Castle served as Delaware's colonial and early state capital and was the site where this historic act of independence was declared, securing its enduring place in the founding narrative of both Delaware and the United States; and

WHEREAS, The City of New Castle's Historic District preserves nationally significant landmarks, including the Court House, The Green, and Amstel House,

which bore witness to the civic, political, and social history of the Colonial and Revolutionary eras; and

WHEREAS, the City continues to honor and preserve this legacy through the annual observance of Separation Day, historic preservation efforts, educational programs, and civic engagement that connect present and future generations to the principles of liberty, representative government, and the rule of law; and

WHEREAS, the America 250 and Delaware 250, and New Castle 375 commemorations provide an meaningful opportunity to reflect upon the City’s contributions to our nation’s founding, celebrate our shared heritage, and to inspire renewed commitment to civic responsibility and historical stewardship;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the City of New Castle that the City hereby recognizes and supports the commemorations of America 250, Delaware 250, and the 375th Anniversary of the City of New Castle; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City affirms the importance of Separation Day as a defining moment in Delaware’s—and America’s—journey toward independence; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of New Castle proudly acknowledges its unique and enduring place in American history and recommits itself to the preservation, education, and celebration of its historic resources and heritage for the benefit of residents, visitors, and future generations.

ADOPTED this ___ day of _____, 2026.

Suzanne Souder, City Council President

Joseph F. Day, III, Councilperson

Nermin Zubaca, Councilperson

Andrew Zeltt, Councilperson

Brian Mattaway, Councilperson

Attest:

Courtaney Taylor, City Clerk