

COUNCIL CHAMBERS
JANUARY 3, 2022

**CHESTER CITY COUNCIL
SWEARING IN CEREMONY**

A Swearing- In Ceremony was held for new and re- elected city officials on the above date at 10:03am in City Council Chambers, 1 Fourth Street, Chester, PA.

WELCOME	Mayor Thaddeus Kirkland
INVOCATION	Rev. Carmella Foster Calvary Baptist Church
PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE	Audience
SWEARING-IN	Honorable Judge Dawn Vann Magisterial District 32-1-21

REMARKS

Councilwoman Portia West says I would like to give Honor to God because I am on assignment from God and I took on that assignment 12 years ago and now I'm going on to another four years. If it were not for God and the people of the City of Chester I would not be sitting here in this position. I want to thank the Chester Democratic party and its leadership Mrs. Livia Smith, Mr. Duane Lee and others. I want to thank Mayor Thaddeus Kirkland and other members of Council for your support of me over the past 12 years. I want to congratulate Councilman Stefan Roots and I look forward to working with you. I want to thank my son, Anthony Moore; my brother, Ronald Mitchell; my Pastor, Reverend Foster and Judge Vann for being here supporting us today. To the People of Chester, I'm ready to go and I look forward to seeing you on the trail!

Councilman Stefan Roots says I want you to know that I'm ready to serve. I'm ready to serve here in the City of Chester. First and foremost, I have to Thank GOD! Secondly, I have to thank my wife who just puts up with one of the most difficult guys I know, myself! Certainly, I have to thank my parents, both leaders in this Community and left a strong legacy. Neither are here to see this day. To my Campaign Team, a small group that was very creative, very resourced and worked super hard to get me here. I thank all of you and to the voters who voted for me! I got a lot to learn and most of my learning is going to be from this group right here. I'm absolutely looking forward to working with you, the Police and Fire Commissioner, the different departments in the City and all the staff in City Hall. And to you Council Lady West, it's just surreal that we would be at this moment together. Let's make the best of it! To the Citizens of Chester, I'm going to do you right!

Mayor Kirkland says thank you Councilperson's and just so that both of you know, we have a lot of work to do. We're going to continue to do work in this Community. A lot of people are depending on us to move our Community forward and we're going to do just that! There are some that are probably waiting for us to fall flat on our face...keep waiting...we're going to continue to work hard in this Community and build a better Chester each and every day. Judge Vann, thank you for your presence here today. Thank you for your service, your friendship and your love for this Community.

BENEDICTION	Rev. Michael Robinson Greater Enon Missionary Baptist Church
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The Swearing-In Ceremony concluded at 10:20a.m

**MEETING OF THE
COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CHESTER**

An organization meeting of the Council of the City of Chester was held on the above date at 10:20am with Mayor Thaddeus Kirkland presiding. A prayer was said followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. The roll was called and the following were present:

Elizabeth Williams
William Morgan
Portia West
Stefan Roots
Mayor Thaddeus Kirkland

Mayor Kirkland asked if anyone in the audience had any comments on Agenda items only.

The City Clerk proceeded with the reading of the Resolutions.

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Section 603 of the Home Rule Charter authorizes the Mayor at the annual organization meeting of the Council to assign to each Council member a responsibility as department head of one or more departments of City government; and

WHEREAS, departments may be combined in an effort to provide better coordinated services to our constituency and such collaboration shall not change the Councilmember's role over that respective department.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CHESTER DOES RESOLVE:

That it does hereby recognize by appointment by the Mayor, the duly elected Councilmembers designated as Directors of the various City Departments as follows:

Thaddeus Kirkland	Director of the Department of Public Affairs
William Morgan	Director of the Department of Accounts & Finance
Portia L. West	Director of the Department of Public Works
Stefan Roots	Director of the Department of Public Property and Recreation
Elizabeth Williams	Director of the Department of Public Safety

On motion of Councilor West, seconded by Councilor Morgan, the above Resolution was adopted. The following vote was taken: Yeas: Williams, Morgan, West, Roots, Mayor Kirkland. Nays: 0.

RESOLUTION

THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CHESTER DOES RESOLVE:

That it does hereby reappoint William Morgan, Director of the Department of Accounts and Finance, as Deputy Mayor for the City of Chester to serve as presiding officer of Council during any temporary absence of the Mayor, serve as the City's representative at ceremonial occasions during any temporary absence of the Mayor, at such times as the Mayor may request and sign any acts of the majority of the City Council when the Mayor is unavailable.

On motion of Councilor West, seconded by Councilor Williams, the above Resolution was adopted. The following vote was taken: Yeas: Williams, Morgan, West, Roots, Mayor Kirkland. Nays: 0.

RESOLUTION

THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CHESTER DOES RESOLVE:

That it does hereby reappoint Candice Newsome, as City Clerk, Department of Accounts and Finance, at the salary range as provided in the Annual Appropriation Ordinance.

FURTHER, that Joan Neal shall be and she is hereby reappointed as Acting City Clerk in the absence or the inability of Candice Newsome, City Clerk, to act in such capacity.

On motion of Councilor West, seconded by Councilor Morgan, the above Resolution was adopted. The following vote was taken: Yeas: Williams, Morgan, West, Roots, Mayor Kirkland. Nays: 0.

RESOLUTION

THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CHESTER DOES RESOLVE:

That it does hereby ratify the appointment of the following individuals to the position of Patrol Officer, Chester Police Department, Department of Public Affairs, effective January 3, 2022, with a one (1) year probationary period, on a full-time basis, with all benefits applicable thereto, at the salary range provided in the Annual Appropriation Ordinance.

1. Hakeem Robinson
2. Anthony Berardi
3. Bassam Farid
4. Tiendat Vu
5. Joseph Yocum
6. Matthew Elliot

FURTHER, that said Patrol Officers are required to reside in the City of Chester for the first five (5) years of employment and must submit proof of residency to the Human Resources Department within three (3) months of their date of hire. Thereafter, they may maintain their residence within fifty (50) miles of City Hall.

On motion of Councilor West, seconded by Councilor Morgan, the above Resolution was adopted. The following vote was taken: Yeas: Williams, Morgan, West, Mayor Kirkland. Nays: 0. Abstain: Roots

RESOLUTION

THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CHESTER DOES RESOLVE:

That it does hereby appoint the following individuals to the position of Police Cadets, Chester Police Department, Department of Public Affairs, effective January 3, 2022, at an hourly rate of \$12.52 per hour, on a per diem basis, not to exceed 8 hours per day, 5 days per week, without benefits:

1. Amanda Wilson
2. Ryan Shomo

FURTHER, said Police Cadets shall attend the Delaware County Community College Police Academy and receive the required police certification.

On motion of Councilor West, seconded by Councilor Morgan, the above Resolution was adopted. The following vote was taken: Yeas: Williams, Morgan, West, Roots, Mayor Kirkland. Nays: 0.

Swearing-In of Patrol Officers

Hakeem Robinson
Anthony Berardi
Bassam Farid
Tiendat Vu
Joseph Yocum
Matthew Elliot

Public Comment

Sief Sadeem Simpson, 1030 Potter Street says I'm here to bring some clarity about the Delaware County ERA Program. The program helps Renters pay their rent and their utilities. The money is paid directly to the Landlord. The Program is not over. People can call in and schedule an appointment at 484-729-4200 or at info@delco-era.com. This year the program will also fund people that are homeless or that need housing. It's possible for people to get the first month, last month, their application fee and three months rent paid from the program and some monies paid for utilities.

Mayor Kirkland says let me say to you and Councilwoman Williams, job well done! Thank you for all the hard work that you guys put into it. I know a lot of folks were skeptical when this program first started but it has helped so, so many people here in the City of Chester.

Councilman Roots says thank you for bringing that information. Those that need help with their rent, this is a legitimate program that's paying their landlords' their back rent couple months forward and their utilities.

Mr. Simpson says some people are receiving 12 months back rent and some up to 15 but the program does pay up to 18 months a year's back utilities.

Councilwoman Williams says I just spoke with the guy that's over the program and he said it doesn't matter if you're behind in your rent but anybody can come and apply because it goes by your income. The money is out there and you can come and see if you qualify for it and call and make an appointment.

Cory Long, 419 Edgemont Avenue says Congratulations Councilwoman West, twelve years of service and continuing on to another four years, that would be 16 years as a Councilperson. Thank you for your continued service. Thank you, Councilman Jacobs, for his 10 years of service in this Community. Thank you to Councilman Roots for stepping up and accepting the charge to lead and serve here in the City of Chester. I understand that change is never easy. Everyone is not always going to agree. There will be challenging times. But however, change is often necessary especially in places like this here in the City of Chester. I'm trusting that you all have the best interest of the City, this Community and I look forward to serving all of you (inaudible) I'm there.

Robert (Inaudible), 2653 S. Marshall Street, Philadelphia PA says Congratulations to Hakeem Robinson and all the Officers. I appreciate everything that you are doing here in Chester. Thank you sooo much and Good Luck to you!

Todd Strine, 400 Riverview Road, Swarthmore PA says Stefan Roots is my friend...I'm very proud of you to be elected to this Council. For far too long Chester has gotten a really bad rap in the County and I look forward to seeing that change with that leadership that is here today. Mayor...Council...I wish you Good Luck and God's speed in all of the work you have to do in the years ahead to turn this City around and make it the place that we all want it to be.

Mayor Kirkland says just so you guys know usually as we go through our Council Meetings, we limit it to Chester Residents. Because this is a special occasion...special people...we opened it up to each and everyone. Thank you all for being here today and all of your kind words and all your support. There is a lot of work to be done. 2021 was a very difficult year. We lost a lot of very good people to this COVID Virus and I can't say it enough and I'm going to keep saying it **PLEASE! PLEASE GET VACCINATED AND YOUR FAMILY MEMBERS!!**

Councilman Roots says thank you for the Department that you assigned me to Recreation and the Parks!

Councilwoman Williams says I want to thank you for the appointment. In 1978 I was on that Committee that made sure Chester had a Fire House and Paid Firemen. We were not paying Firemen during that time period. The only person that was getting paid was the Driver of the Truck. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to work with something that I had input in.

There being no other business to come before Council, the meeting was adjourned at 10:40am.

Respectfully submitted,

JANUARY 3, 2022

Candice Newsome, City Clerk