

Mayor Carney:

On March 20, 2025, you signed Executive Order No. 1 establishing the Task Force on Homelessness. At its first meeting on May 6, 2025, Task Force members unanimously agreed to focus on five areas, with the first being potentially establishing “a location in a City-owned park for a safe site for unsheltered homeless individuals.” Ultimately, this recommendation was included in the Task Force’s September 30, 2025 report.

On February 5, 2026, Wilmington City Council formed a *Homelessness Subcommittee under the Health, Environmental, Aging and Disabilities Committee*, directing us to engage with the 2025 Task Force’s report and expand on its recommendations. Our subcommittee met for the first time on April 30, 2026, where we were joined by residents of Christina Park. Members of the subcommittee went to the park the following week to meet with additional residents and learn more about their needs, informing ways we can be of service in addressing resident concerns.

Given how recently tents were delivered to the park, we were surprised to hear that residents were abruptly served with eviction notices. We agree with advocates and park residents that living in tents in Christina Park is not a sustainable long-term solution to Wilmington’s homelessness crisis. However, given the lack of progress that has been made thus far to find suitable alternative housing, we are incredibly concerned about the feasibility of finding housing for all residents of the park before the stated June 15 deadline.

As the members of the *Homelessness Subcommittee* we unanimously oppose your intent to evict residents from Christina Park scheduled for June 15, 2026 due to the lack of a clear plan for the individuals living in the park. In light of this looming June 15 eviction, we are further perplexed by the continued delivery of tents to the park. Of additional concern is that there is no clear long-term plan to secure housing for park residents, nor an indication of repercussions for individuals if they are not able to obtain housing and leave the park by the eviction deadline. Moreover, we have received no information regarding a repeal of the city-wide prohibition on camping anywhere in the City aside from Christina Park. Does eviction from the park constitute a de facto prohibition on being homeless within the city? The approach taken by your administration in addressing homelessness, including this most recent decision to abruptly evict residents, appears both arbitrary and cruel.

As part of our duty and responsibility as subcommittee members, we will coordinate with the City Council to have a representative of your office meet with our subcommittee to explain why this date was chosen, what your administration is doing to prepare the residents for their eviction date, and why your office has seemingly failed to pursue or implement any other recommendations presented in the Task Force’s report.

We strongly urge you to rescind the June 15 eviction notice and to continue to work with Friendship House to find sustainable alternative housing for the park’s residents, using a trauma informed approach, and within an appropriate timeline informed and supported by evidence- based research practices. Homelessness is not a crime.

In Solidarity with the residents of Christina Park,

Homelessness Subcommittee