

Introduced by: Ms. Hartley-Nagle
Date of introduction: September 12, 2023

RESOLUTION NO. 23-164

**RECOGNIZING THE FOUNDING AND CELEBRATING THE 350TH ANNIVERSARY
OF NEW CASTLE COUNTY, DELAWARE**

WHEREAS, on September 12th, 1673, a critical juncture in the rich tapestry of history unfolded with the Dutch establishment of New Amstel, a foundation stone in the development of what would become present-day New Castle County, a region with a storied history shaped by the hands of various settlers including the Dutch, Swedish, and English; and

WHEREAS, the initial seeds of this region were sown in 1638, with the vision and bravery of Peter Minuit leading an expedition aboard the Kalmar Nyckel, leading to the first permanent settlement on Delaware soil, Fort Christina, laying the groundwork for the Wilmington we know today, a testimony to the spirit of discovery and collaboration with the Lenape Native Americans; and

WHEREAS, this territory bore witness to a complex interchange of cultures and disputes, notably between the Dutch and the Swedes, who both aspired to mark their territory and establish colonies, resulting in a dynamic exchange of powers including significant figures such as Queen Christina of Sweden, and Peter Stuyvesant, the Governor of New Netherland; and

WHEREAS, through tumultuous times, a series of events saw the shifting sands of control, with Fort Casimir at the contemporary New Castle, evolving through captures, surrenders, and re-establishments, bringing into existence New Amstel under John Paul Jacquet's leadership, standing tall as a symbol of changing times and evolving boundaries; and

WHEREAS, this period marked a significant moment in the annals of history with the involvement of international forces including the English Crown, seen with the granting of this land to the Duke of York, James, by King Charles II in 1664, establishing a bridge to the modern era and connecting us to the global history stage; and

WHEREAS, New Castle County was graced with the establishment of firm borders through critical delineations such as the establishment of a court at New Castle in September 1673, the arc drawn in 1681 to delineate the northern border, and the finality of the western border defined by King James II in 1685, shaping the geographical narrative of the county; and

WHEREAS, in its developmental journey, New Castle County became part of the vital structural shift in 1682 under William Penn's governance, sowing the seeds for the birth of the Colony of Delaware, a land of prosperity and development, a testimony to the strength of community, harmony, and innovation; and

WHEREAS, now standing as the most populous county in Delaware, embodying nearly 60% of the state's population, according to the 2020 census, New Castle County is a beacon of economic development, a nexus of historical convergence, a place of rich cultural inheritance, governed from the county seat in Wilmington, the state's most populous city; and

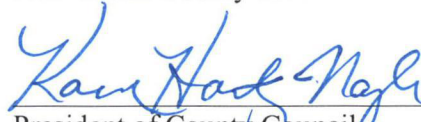
WHEREAS, this county, named after William Cavendish, 1st Duke of Newcastle, encapsulates the spirit of perseverance, survival, and growth through centuries, proudly bearing a rich history while ushering in modernity with a promising future, presenting an intertwined story of diverse cultures and historic figures shaping its path; and

WHEREAS, it's pertinent to recall the past, the journeys, the stories, and the lives that have coursed through the veins of this county, nurturing it, fighting for it, building it, as we come together to celebrate 350 years of New Castle County, a milestone that speaks of the enduring spirit of humanity in its quest for community, stability, and prosperity; and

WHEREAS, this anniversary embodies more than a date in history; it stands as a symbol of the indomitable spirit of New Castle County, a place that has nurtured dreams, fostered communities, and stood tall, resilient through 350 years of history, carving out a space that we proudly call home today.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by and for the County Council of New Castle County that County Council hereby recognizes September 12, 2023 as the 350th anniversary of the founding of New Castle County and encourages all residents to join in celebrating the rich history, the vibrant culture, and the enduring spirit of New Castle County, Delaware.

Adopted by County Council of
New Castle County on: 9/12/2023



President of County Council
of New Castle County

SYNOPSIS: Same as title.

FISCAL IMPACT: There is no discernible fiscal impact with the adoption of this resolution

