



**Resolution of the Berryville Town Council Expressing Its Intent to Uphold and
Defend the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the
Commonwealth of Virginia**

WHEREAS, the Constitution of the United States, including the Bill of Rights, forms the foundation of our nation and the rule of law; and

WHEREAS, the Bill of Rights enumerates certain inherent citizens' rights, such as "the freedom of speech," "the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances," "being necessary to the security of a free state, the right of the people to keep and bear arms," "the right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, paper, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, "nor be deprived of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; and

WHEREAS, the members of the Town Council each pledged a solemn oath to uphold these laws, which reads, "I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support the Constitution of the United States, and the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Virginia, and that I will faithfully and impartially discharge all the duties incumbent

upon me as a member of the Berryville Town Council according to the best of my ability, (so help me God); and

WHEREAS, the Town Council of Berryville, Virginia, has only those powers granted to it by the General Assembly and Article VII of the Virginia Constitution; and

WHEREAS, the Second Amendment of the United States Constitution states, “A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free state, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed.”; and

WHEREAS, Article I, Section 13, of the Constitution of Virginia provides “that a well regulated militia, composed of the body of the people, trained to arms, is the proper, natural, and safe defense of a free state, therefore, the right of the people to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed”; and

WHEREAS, the right of the law-abiding citizens of Berryville to keep and bear arms for the purpose of lawful self-defense and hunting pursuant to the rights bestowed upon them by the Second Amendment of the United States Constitution and Article I, Section 13 of the Constitution of Virginia is a part of the fabric of this Town and must be respected and upheld; and

WHEREAS, certain legislation that has or may be introduced in the Virginia General Assembly, and certain legislation which has or may be introduced in the United States Congress could have the effect of infringing upon the right of law abiding citizens to keep and bear arms, in violation of the Second Amendment to the United States Constitution and Article I, Section 13 of the Constitution of Virginia; and

WHEREAS, the Berryville Town Council wishes to express its deep commitment to the right of the citizens of Berryville to keep and bear arms; and

WHEREAS, the Berryville Town Council wishes to express opposition to any law that would unconstitutionally restrict the rights of the citizens of Berryville to keep and bear arms.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Town Council of the Town of Berryville:

That the Town Council hereby expresses its intent to uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Virginia; and

That the Town Council urges the Virginia General Assembly and the United States Congress not to adopt or enact any law that would infringe on the right to keep and bear arms in violation of the Second Amendment; and

That the Town Manager is directed to cause true copies of this resolution to be forwarded to the Town's representatives in the Virginia General Assembly and the United States Congress and to the Governor of Virginia.

Adopted this 14th day of January, 2020

ATTEST



Harry Lee Arnold, Jr., Recorder