

## **RESOLUTION DECLARING THE TOWN OF BLACKSTONE AS A SECOND AMENDMENT SANCTUARY**

**WHEREAS**, the Second Amendment of the United States Constitution reads “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; that standing armies, in time of peace, should be avoided as dangerous to liberty; and that in all cases the military should be under strict subordination to and governed by, the civil power;” and,

**WHEREAS**, certain legislation introduced in the 2019 session of the Virginia General Assembly, and certain legislation introduced in the current session of the United States Congress could have the effect of infringing on the rights of law abiding citizens to keep and bear arms, as guaranteed by the Second Amendment of the United States Constitution; and,

**WHEREAS**, the current Governor of Virginia has stated that he intends to endorse and pass into law legislation that is unconstitutional as it pertains to the rights enumerated in the U.S. and Virginia Constitutions; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Blackstone and its citizens are concerned about the passage of any bill containing language which could be interpreted as infringing the rights of the citizens of Blackstone, Virginia, to keep and bear arms or could begin a slippery slope of restrictions on the Second Amendment rights of the citizens of Blackstone, Virginia; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Blackstone Town Council wishes to express its deep commitment to the rights of all citizens of Blackstone, Virginia to keep and bear arms; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Blackstone Town Council wishes to express opposition to any law that would unconstitutionally restrict the rights under the Second Amendment of the citizens of Blackstone, Virginia to keep and bear arms; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Blackstone Town Council wishes to express its intent to stand as a Sanctuary Town for Second Amendment rights and to oppose, within the limits of the Constitution of the United States and the Commonwealth of Virginia, any efforts to unconstitutionally restrict such rights, and to use such legal means at its disposal to protect the rights of citizens to keep and bear arms, including through legal action, the power of appropriation of public funds, the right to petition for redress of grievances, and the direction to the law enforcement and judiciary of Blackstone, Virginia to not enforce any unconstitutional law.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Town Council of Blackstone, Virginia:

That the Blackstone Town Council hereby expresses its intent to uphold the Second Amendment rights of the citizens of Blackstone, Virginia, and its intent that public funds of the Town not be used to restrict Second Amendment rights or to aid in the unnecessary and unconstitutional restriction of the rights under the Second Amendment of the citizens of Blackstone, Virginia, to bear arms; and

That the Blackstone Town Council hereby declares its intent to oppose unconstitutional restrictions on the right to keep and bear arms through such legal means as may be expedient, including, without limitation, court action; and,

That the Blackstone Town Council hereby declares Blackstone, Virginia, as a "Second Amendment Sanctuary".

Adopted this 16<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2019 by a vote of   5   in favor and   2   opposed.

Town of Blackstone, Virginia

By: 

Mayor

Attest:

  
Town Clerk

{Town Seal}