

**A RESOLUTION DECLARING THE CITY OF COVINGTON A SECOND AMENDMENT
SANCTUARY CITY**

WHEREAS, the Second Amendment to 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, § 13 of the Virginia Constitution reads: "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, City Council is concerned that certain legislation prefiled for introduction in the 2020 Virginia General Assembly, and certain legislation that has been introduced in the United States Congress, may have the effect of infringing on the rights of law-abiding citizens to bear arms, as guaranteed by the United States and Virginia Constitutions; and

WHEREAS, City Council is concerned that passage of these bills, imposing unnecessary burdens on law-abiding citizens and inviting further regulations and burdens, and if to be enforced by local officials, will impose on the City unfunded mandates, whether as a formal mandate or as a practical requirement of enforcing the law; and

WHEREAS, the General Assembly has expressed its intent, in Section 15.2-915 of the Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, that rules, regulations, and administrative actions "governing the purchase, possession, transfer, ownership, carrying, storage or transporting of firearms, ammunition, or components or combination thereof," other than workplace rules, is an exclusive preserve of State government, and that local law enforcement is the responsibility and preserve of the Sheriff and the Commonwealth's Attorney, who are independently elected officers under the Virginia Constitution; and

WHEREAS, nevertheless, City Council wishes to express its sentiments, together with the sentiments of the City of Covington community as a whole, with regard to this important matter, and its continuing intent to take lawful action to protect these important rights.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL FOR THE CITY OF COVINGTON, VIRGINIA, that:

1. The City of Covington is hereby declared a Second Amendment Sanctuary City, wherein the rights of law-abiding citizens to keep and bear arms for the purposes of lawful self-defense, community defense, and hunting, as protected by the United States and Virginia Constitutions, is part of the fabric of the community since before the foundation of the Republic, and is and must be respected and celebrated; and
2. The City of Covington urges the General Assembly, the United States Congress, and other agencies of State and Federal government not to adopt, accept, or enact any provision, law, or regulation that may infringe, have the tendency to infringe, or place any additional burdens on the right of law-abiding citizens to bear arms; and
3. The City of Covington expresses its intent to continue to take lawful actions to protect and support the rights of its citizens to keep and bear arms as guaranteed by the United States and Virginia Constitutions; and
4. The City of Covington opposes, in particular, any provision, law, or regulation that may impose additional regulatory burdens on its citizens or result in mandates, whether mandatory or practical, to expend additional public funds on enforcement or administration of such laws, or to require the constitutional officers of the locality to do so; and

5. The City Manager is directed to cause true copies of this resolution to be forwarded to the City's representatives in the General Assembly and the United States Congress, together with the Chairmen or Presidents of each chamber therein; and

6. This resolution is effective upon adoption.

Adopted by affirmative votes of the Council of the City of Covington, Virginia, as evidenced by the following votes:

VOTE BY COVINGTON CITY COUNCIL:	5	FOR;	0	AGAINST
MAYOR THOMAS H. SIBOLD, JR.		<u>FOR</u>		<u> </u>
VICE MAYOR DAVID S. CROSIER		<u>FOR</u>		<u> </u>
COUNCILMAN CLAIBORNE ENTSMINGER, JR.		<u>FOR</u>		<u> </u>
COUNCILMAN RAYMOND C. HUNTER		<u>FOR</u>		<u> </u>
COUNCILMAN S. ALLAN TUCKER		<u>FOR</u>		<u> </u>

ADOPTED THIS 10TH DAY OF DECEMBER 2019



THOMAS H. SIBOLD, JR., MAYOR

ATTEST:



EDITH S. WOOD, CITY CLERK