

RESOLUTION

IN RE: DECLARATION OF HIGHLAND COUNTY, VIRGINIA AS A SECOND AMENDMENT SANCTUARY COUNTY

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 Highland County Board of Supervisors is concerned about the passage of any legislation containing language which could be interpreted as infringing the rights of the citizens of Highland County to keep and bear Arms as well as begin a "slippery slope" of restrictions on the Second Amendment rights of the citizens of Highland County; and,

WHEREAS, the Highland County, Va. Board of Supervisors wishes to remind the federal Congress and the Virginia General Assembly of Virginia that the purpose of the second amendment was not just to facilitate hunting and gun sporting events, but more importantly to provide citizens the means of self-defense and to be a counter-balance to tyranny, as George Mason noted: "... to disarm the people –that was the best and most effectual way to enslave them" (George Mason, 3 Elliot, Debates, at 380); and as succinctly stated by Thomas Jefferson: "The strongest reason for people to retain the right to keep and bear arms is, as a last resort, to protect themselves against tyranny in government." And finally, as summarized by our first President, George Washington: "Firearms stand next in importance to the Constitution itself. They are the American people's liberty teeth and keystone under independence...From the hour the Pilgrims landed, to the present day, events, occurrences, and tendencies prove that to insure peace, security and happiness, the rifle and pistol are equally indispensable...the very atmosphere of firearms everywhere restrains evil interference- they deserve a place of honor with all that is good."; and

WHEREAS, the Highland County Board of Supervisors wishes to express its deep commitment to the rights of all citizens of Highland County to keep and bear Arms; and,

WHEREAS, the Highland County Board of Supervisors wishes to express opposition to any law that would unconstitutionally restrict the rights under the Second

Amendment of the citizens of Highland County to bear arms; and,

WHEREAS, the Highland County Board of Supervisors wishes to express its intent to stand as a Sanctuary County for Second Amendment rights and to oppose, within the limits of the Constitutions 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 right of the citizens to keep and bear arms, including through legal action, the power of appropriation of public funds, and the right to petition for redress of grievances.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF HIGHLAND COUNTY, VIRGINIA:

That the Board of Supervisors hereby expresses its intent to uphold the Second Amendment rights of the citizens of Highland County and its intent that public funds of the County 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 Highland County to bear arms; That the Board of Supervisors 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 Board of Supervisors hereby declares Highland County, Virginia, as a "Second Amendment Sanctuary County."

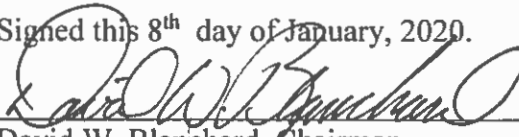
CERTIFICATION OF ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION

The undersigned Clerk of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Highland, Virginia hereby certifies that the Resolution set forth above was adopted during an open meeting on January 8, 2020, by the Board of Supervisors with the following votes:

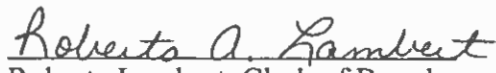
Recorded Vote:

Motion by:	Harry B. Sponaugle
Second by:	David W. Blanchard, Jr.
David W. Blanchard, Jr.	Yes
Harry B. Sponaugle:	Yes
John L. Moyers, Jr.:	Yes

Signed this 8th day of January, 2020.


David W. Blanchard, Chairman
Highland County Board of Supervisors

ATTEST:


Roberta Lambert, Clerk of Board
County Administrator