

James R. Lyons, Sheriff



Phone: 804-580-5221  
Fax: 804-580-5723

P.O. Box 310  
Heathsville, Virginia 22473

Northumberland County

**PROCLAMATION BY THE NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY**

**SHERIFF**

**DECLARING Northumberland COUNTY AS A "2<sup>nd</sup> AMENDMENT SANCTUARY COUNTY"**

WHEREAS, Sheriff James R. Lyons took an oath to support and defend the United States Constitution, the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Virginia, and laws of the Commonwealth of Virginia (insofar as they are constitutional), hereby expresses his intent to uphold the Second Amendment rights of the citizens of Northumberland County, Virginia, and

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, the United States Supreme Court in District of Columbia v. Heller, 554 U.S. 570 (2008), affirmed an individual's right to possess firearms, unconnected with service in a militia, for traditionally lawful purposes, such as self-defense within the home, and

WHEREAS, the United States Supreme Court in McDonald v. Chicago, 561 U.S. 742 (2010), affirmed that the right of an individual to "keep and bear arms," as protected under the Second Amendment, is incorporated by the Due Process Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment against the states, and

WHEREAS, the United States Supreme Court in United States v. Miller, 307 U.S. 174 (1939), opined that firearms that are part of ordinary military equipment, or with use that could contribute to the common defense are protected by the Second Amendment, 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, Article I, section 1, of the Constitution of Virginia reads "That all men are by nature equally free and independent and have certain inherent rights, of which, when they enter into the state of society, they cannot, by any compact, deprive or divest their posterity; namely, the

enjoyment of life and liberty, with the means of acquiring and possessing property, and pursuing and obtaining happiness and safety, 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 on the rights of law abiding citizens to keep and bear arms, as guaranteed by the Second Amendment to the United States Constitution and Article I, Section 13 of the Constitution of Virginia, and

WHEREAS, the Sheriff of Northumberland County is concerned about the passage of any bill containing language which could be interpreted as infringing the rights of the citizens of Northumberland County to keep and bear arms, and

WHEREAS, the Northumberland County Sheriff wishes to express his deep commitment to the rights of all citizens of Northumberland County to keep and bear arms, and

WHEREAS, the Northumberland County Sheriff wishes to express opposition to any law that would unconstitutionally restrict the rights of the citizens of Northumberland County to keep and bear arms, and

WHEREAS, the Northumberland County Sheriff wishes to express his intent to stand as a Sanctuary County 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 the citizens of Northumberland County to keep and bear arms, including through legal action, power to spend public funds, the right to petition for redress of grievances, and the power to direct deputy sheriffs of Northumberland County to not enforce any unconstitutional law.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT BE KNOWN that the Northumberland Sheriff hereby declares Northumberland County, Virginia, as a "Second Amendment Sanctuary", and

That the Northumberland County Sheriff hereby declares its intent to oppose any infringement on the right of law-abiding citizens to keep and bear arms using such legal means as may be expedient, including, without limitation, court action, and

That the Northumberland County Sheriff hereby expresses his intent that public funds of the county not be used to restrict the Second Amendment rights of the citizens of Northumberland County, or to aid federal or state agencies in the restriction of said rights.