

AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF ROANOKE
COUNTY, VIRGINIA, HELD AT THE ROANOKE COUNTY ADMINISTRATION
CENTER ON TUESDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2019

**RESOLUTION DECLARING ROANOKE COUNTY A SECOND
AMENDMENT SANCTUARY COUNTY**

WHEREAS, the members of the Board of Supervisors have taken an oath to defend and uphold the constitutions of the United States and Virginia; and

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, the Board is concerned that certain legislation pre-filed 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, the Board 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 County 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 or other actions “expressly authorized by statute,” is an exclusive preserve of State government; and

WHEREAS, local law enforcement is the responsibility and preserve of the Chief of Police, the Sheriff and the Commonwealth’s Attorney; and the Sheriff and Commonwealth’s Attorney are independently elected officers under the Virginia Constitution; and

WHEREAS, nevertheless, the Board wishes to express its sentiments, together with the sentiments of the Roanoke County 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 BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF ROANOKE COUNTY, VIRGINIA, that:

1. Roanoke County is hereby declared a Second Amendment Sanctuary County, 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. Roanoke County 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. Roanoke County 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. Roanoke County 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 County Administrator is directed to cause true copies of this resolution to be forwarded to the County's representatives in the General Assembly and the United States Congress, and to the Governor of Virginia; and

6. This resolution is effective upon adoption.