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## Council Members' Constitutional Statement

As members of Salem City Council, we are reaffirming our commitment to both the United States and Virginia Constitutions.

“As an elected official and as a former Officer of the United States Air Force, I swore to defend both the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of The Commonwealth,” says Mayor Randy Foley. “That oath pertains to all of the amendments and each article, and I take that responsibility very seriously.”

In addition, Council members Jane Johnson, Bill Jones, James Martin and John Saunders would like to state that their reaffirmation includes their opposition to any proposed changes to the Second Amendment.

“Every inalienable right that is guaranteed to each American citizen in the United States Constitution, including those granted in the Second Amendment, and those in the Constitution of the Commonwealth are sacred to me,” says Councilman James Martin. “I do not support any proposed legislation from Richmond or Washington that would degrade any of the existing rights or privileges that have been afforded to law-abiding citizens for generations.”

Salem City Council is urging Virginia legislators in both the House of Delegates and Senate to refrain from considering the passage of any legislation that would infringe upon the guaranteed rights of the citizens of Salem.

“Salem does not have the authority to change the constitution and the members of Council have no interest in violating the rights of any of our citizens,” says Vice-Mayor Jane Johnson. “Each member of Council enjoyed speaking in person to those of you who attended the December 9 council meeting. We applaud your passion and thank you for expressing your thoughts and opinions in a respectful manner.”

CITY GOVERNMENT