



MILITIA SUPPORT RESOLUTION

City of Norton, Virginia



JANUARY 7, 2020

MARK A. CARUSO
Vice Mayor City of Norton

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE ORDER OF MILITIA WITHIN THE CITY OF NORTON PURSUANT TO THE SECOND AMENDMENT TO THE UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION AND ARTICLE 1, SECTION 13 OF THE CONSTITUTION OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

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 reads: “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, Sections 44-1 and 44-4 of the Code of Virginia further establishes the legal basis for the establishment of the unorganized militia, and

WHEREAS, the unorganized militia must be able to assemble and train as individuals or collectively; and may be mustered and ordered by local civil authorities in times of need, and

WHEREAS, the unorganized militia is composed of the “body of the people” and should, as the Constitution of Virginia directs, be “trained to arms” with firearms that are in “common use” within society, which include, but are not limited to, semi-automatic rifles and pistols with detachable high capacity magazines, and

WHEREAS, the unorganized militia have a long history of selfless and honorable service to localities, states and the federal government in times of crisis, natural and manmade disasters and other emergencies that may arise from time to time, and

WHEREAS, the unorganized militia can be a valuable asset in modern times in assisting local authorities during times of crisis, natural and man-made disasters and other emergencies that may arise from time to time, and

WHEREAS, the Motto of the Commonwealth of Virginia, established by our founders, is Sic Semper Tyrannus, ‘Thus unto Tyrants’, is a warning to those entrusted with governance within the Commonwealth not to exceed their Constitutional authority, and

WHEREAS, the unorganized militia, composed of the body of the people, are, as intended by our founders, the last best hope of the Commonwealth to ensure and secure the liberties protected by the Constitution that may be threatened by foreign forces or a tyrannical government, and

WHEREAS, to commit to the intent and fullness of the Constitutional freedoms granted by the Constitution of the United States and Constitution of the Commonwealth of Virginia, the City Council of the City of Norton finds the following measures as appropriate and necessary, so

THEREFORE, be it RESOLVED by the City Council that we express our intent to vigorously uphold and protect the Second Amendment and Article I, Section 13 rights of law-abiding citizens to keep and bear arms and to participate as a member of the unorganized militia.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, in order to facilitate the development of the unorganized militia, enhance the safety and security of the citizens of the City and establish, as our founders intended, a barrier against a tyrannical government, the Council hereby expresses its intent to:

- (1) Refuse to provide City resources for any effort to enforce unconstitutional firearms related laws, including restrictions or confiscation efforts on “common use” firearms that may be used by individual, law abiding, citizens for self-defense or individual or collective service to the community as part of the armaments of the unorganized militia.
- (2) Recognize the right of all able-bodied residents of the City of Norton, who are law-abiding citizens of the Commonwealth and the United States, to participate as a member the unorganized militia.
- (3) Support the right of law-abiding citizens to assemble and train to arms; to include, but not limited to: firearms safety training, marksmanship training, drills, first aid training, and other activities that enhance the individual citizen’s ability to defend themselves, their family, their community; and the unorganized militia’s ability to respond effectively to a crisis.
- (4) Support the development of standard operating procedures for the appointment of Officers and Non-commissioned officers should the unorganized militia be mustered by the City.
- (5) Support the establishment of other regulating procedures as the City Council may deem necessary for ordering the unorganized militia when mustered at the request of the City.
- (6) Support, as the Council deems appropriate, firearms safety and marksmanship training sponsored by the BSA, GSA, CMP, 4-H, JROTC, NRA, and other responsible organizations that provide firearms training.
- (7) Support conducting hunter’s education and firearms safety programs in our school system.
- (8) Support educating the public, through established information forums, on the responsibilities and contributions of militias throughout the long history of Virginia.

BE IT RESOLVED FINALLY, that the Council hereby declares our intent to oppose unconstitutional restrictions on the Bill of Rights and specifically the Second Amendment to the U.S. Constitution and Article I, Section 13 of the Constitution of Virginia through such legal means as may be expedient, including, without limitation, legal process.

The undersigned Clerk of Council certifies that the Resolution set forth was adopted during an open meeting on 7 January 2020 by the City Council.

CITY OF NORTON, VIRGINIA

Joseph Fawbush, Mayor

Mark A. Caruso, Vice Mayor

William J. Mays, Councilman

Delores 'Dee' Belcher - Councilwoman

Robert Fultz – Councilman

ATTEST:

Clerk of Council