



---

# SECOND AMENDMENT SANCTUARY CITY RESOLUTION

---

Pre-vote speech



DECEMBER 3, 2019

MARK A. CARUSO  
Vice Mayor

Mr. Mayor, members of Council, Citizens of the City of Norton and visitors to Norton. I want to thank the patriots who have taken their time and made the effort to be here to support our 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment Sanctuary Resolution, as well as those who could not make it here but are supportive of our efforts (to include our Commonwealth Attorney Chuck Slemp) to support and defend the Constitutions of Virginia and the United States.

Tonight, we are going to consider a resolution that Designates the City of Norton as a Second Amendment Sanctuary City and declares loud and clear that the City stands in solidarity with the other 2A Sanctuary Communities across the Commonwealth and the Nation. I trust that I will have your unanimous support when it is time to vote.

Mr. Mayor, before I read the resolution, and ask council to approve it, I would like to say a few words if you do not mind.

In the Army, where I spent most of my adult life, we were always told to put the bottom line up front. So, the bottom line is this: In order to prevent a constitutional crisis and potential confrontations in the Commonwealth between good law-abiding citizens and the good law enforcement officers who serve us daily, We the People are asking the Governor to have his allies in the Legislature to withdraw all the new bills that restrict gun ownership and the right of citizens to peaceably assemble and train; or to veto those bills should they reach his desk.

We need to ask the question of how did we get here? How did we get to this point... where thousands upon thousands of us across the Commonwealth are so angry, so dismayed, so disillusioned by the Governor's anti-citizen, pro criminal, gun control agenda.

I believe it is because the Governor and his associates in the legislature have forced us to be here. Their unconstitutional proposals cut us to very core of who we are as Americans and Virginians. We did not seek out this confrontation. They have created this issue and this conflict and brought it to our doorstep.

In the opinion of many, the issue of gun control and the infringement of our 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment Rights, as will be proposed in the legislature in the coming legislative

session, is a defining moment for the Citizens of the Commonwealth; a moment that creates two paths for Virginia to travel. The path we the people propose, the path the Constitution delineates... is one of the right of the people to keep and bear arms, one of crime control, one of enabling law-abiding citizens in their efforts to create a safe and secure society. The other path, the Governor's path, one that is unconstitutional, one that enables criminals through citizen control, and one creating a whole new class of gun owning felons that potentially will affect thousands of law-abiding and responsible Virginians.

The proposed legislation is a direct assault on our Civil Rights at the state and federal level and must, in my opinion, be opposed as if it were an assault on our free speech, our free association, or our freedom of religion or any of the other individual rights our founders had the foresight to recognize. If the 2<sup>nd</sup> amendment cannot be guaranteed, surely none of the others will be.

Having worn the uniform of my country for 34 years and sworn a solemn oath to support and defend the Constitution of the United States against its enemies, foreign and domestic, I, and I trust all others who have sworn this same oath, are drawing a line in the sand to confront those who seek to betray the text and intent of the Constitution and therefore the people, for the false promise of safety and security. I do not know what their real motives are, but I do know that no one who has sworn that oath can, without violating it, enforce these unconstitutional moves by the legislature and the governor. I am convinced all of our founders would be shocked at the proposed legislation and would do everything in their power to stop it.

I believe that for us to stand by and let this madness transpire is willful neglect of our duties as leaders and citizens...we, here on this Council are responsible to the people, to preserve for them the rights recognized by our founders, codified in the Constitution and centuries of precedent and common law.

The vast majority of scholarly data, government and corporate research tells us that gun control does not work. It does not make our communities safer...If that were the case, Richmond, Chicago, LA, Baltimore and DC would be the safest places on earth. The data shows it has the exact opposite effect. It puts our citizens in a more dangerous and less safe position in relation to armed criminals. Those who propose additional gun control ignore the facts and deceptively play

on good people's emotions to garner the votes they need; purposefully placing our citizens in a defenseless posture; aiding and abetting criminal activity, making us less safe and less secure; taking the implements away that liberty, safety and security require to ensure we remain a free people.

The Governor, democrat legislators and the Attorney General tell us to comply with the new gun control laws or become class 5 or class 6 felons. They are willing to make thousands and thousands of law-abiding citizens felons if we do not comply with their unconstitutional gun grab or associate with one another to train to arms as the Constitution of Virginia directs. A grab that may very well include the law enforcement officers who have AR 15s at home to protect their families, making them or their spouse a felon as well.

What we need is criminal control and legislator control, not more gun control. Criminals are mocking and laughing at the Governor and the legislators who are proposing this crime enabling legislation. This legislation enables the criminal and will make all of us a softer target when criminals choose to attack. If this legislation is passed, I predict crime will rise in communities all across the rural parts of the Commonwealth. Assaults will rise, more good citizens will be injured or killed in their own homes, work places, or on the street. Will the Governor take responsibility...the Attorney General, the legislature, I dare say, they will not.

Our Law Enforcement officers at the local and state level need to know that as the elected leaders and Citizens of this City, we support you 100%...we do not support, we will not support, the proposed unconstitutional, criminal enabling laws.

What part of "Shall Not Be Infringed" and "Freedom of Association" do these legislators and the Governor not understand. If the hand full of northern and eastern counties and Cities of the 90 plus counties and over 30 Cities of the commonwealth want more gun control, then limit it to their own communities. Let them make their communities less safe, not ours. We, in the rest of the Commonwealth, do not have their urban culture, their acceptance of high crime and sheep like mindset. We want to keep the firearms we own, responsibly and without being unindicted felons. We want to be able to ensure our own safety and security. We don't need or want their gun control.

Let our vote tonight show the Commonwealth, and the Nation, that the Independent City of Norton, Virginia's smallest City, stands in solidarity with the growing number 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment Sanctuary Communities in the Commonwealth and around the Nation. As we vote tonight, let's send a strong message to the Governor, the Attorney General and the legislators in Richmond.

I have been told that to stand against the Governor and this new unconstitutional legislation may invite retaliation in terms of fewer grants or other state resources. If they choose to retaliate by withholding grants and other resources because we are exercising our right to free speech and association, it would be a further example of the true character of those who are proposing this unconstitutional legislative agenda.

As we consider the resolution that will follow, let us consider pledging to form an alliance of 2A sanctuary Cities, towns and Counties for the purpose of a common legal defense against the bills proposed and the possible retaliation that may come.

For if we are to secure our liberties, we must, as Benjamin Franklin stated in the early days of our republic, hang together or assuredly we will all hang separately. There is great strength and wisdom in being mutually supporting, unyielding and unafraid municipalities.

We are at a critical moment in our history. We stand upon a slippery slope that leads to a precipice where the boundary between freedom and tyranny reside. I ask, I pray that the Governor will exercise good leadership, common sense and good judgment and withdraw his fascist agenda.

If he does not, we will use the tools our founders provided us to redress our grievances; we will speak against this madness at every opportunity, from every electronic media outlet, every soapbox, stump, church, courthouse step, and podium we can find; we will register every patriot to vote all across Virginia and get out the vote to remove every legislator that votes for the new gun control bills; and we will use the courts to strike this unconstitutional legislation down. That is our promise, that is our path; let's walk it peacefully and in unity and with the absolute confidence that our cause is just.

Now Mr. Mayor, and in the form of a Motion, I will read the resolution I wish this council to considered tonight.

After the Vote:

I am very proud of our Council for taking this bold and necessary step to protect the civil rights of our citizens.

It has been said that these resolutions are just symbolic and have no real meaning. I beg to disagree.

It is a symbol like the lanterns hung in the old North Church. A beacon to rally the citizenry to the dangers that may come.

This resolution we just passed is a concrete symbol of our resolve. It is a symbol of our patriotism. It is a symbol of our fears and more importantly it is a symbol of our courage to stand firm against the unconstitutional madness that the Democrats in our government are bringing to our doorstep.

Go from here tonight with a renewed confidence that reason and justice will prevail through peaceful and legal means. Go from here tonight ready to voice your opposition to the new bills, with your resolve to speak in every forum, to rally and register the silent majority, to go to the polls, and to fight in the courts.

We stand on the high ground of history with the founding fathers at our left and at our right, their written words resounding across the country side, the Constitution as our shield. We shall not be disarmed, we shall associate with like-minded citizens and will not be dislodged from our position.

I am grateful for all of you...Thank all of you for being here tonight.