

MOTION:

December 10, 2019

SECOND:

Regular Meeting

Res.. No. 19-

RE:

**DECLARE – PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY, VIRGINIA, AS A SECOND AMENDMENT
SANCTUARY COUNTY**

ACTION:

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 Prince William Board of County Supervisors is concerned about the passage of any bill containing language which could be interpreted as infringing the rights of the citizens of Prince William County to keep and bear arms; and

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WHEREAS, the Prince William Board of County Supervisors wishes to express its deep commitment to the rights of all citizens of Prince William County to keep and bear arms; and

WHEREAS, the Prince William Board of County Supervisors wishes to express opposition to any law that would unconstitutionally restrict the rights of the citizens of Prince William County to keep and bear arms; and

WHEREAS, the Prince William Board of County Supervisors wishes to express its 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 Prince William County to keep and bear arms, including through legal action, the power to appropriate public funds, the right to petition for redress of grievances, and the power to direct the law enforcement and employees of Prince William County to not enforce any unconstitutional law;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVE that the Prince William Board of County Supervisors hereby declares Prince William County, Virginia, as a Second Amendment Sanctuary County;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Prince William Board of County Supervisors hereby expresses its intent to uphold the Second Amendment rights of the citizens of Prince William County, Virginia;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Prince William Board of County Supervisors hereby expresses its intent that public funds of the county not be used to restrict the Second Amendment rights of the citizens of Prince William County, or to aid federal or state agencies in the restriction of said rights;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Prince William Board of County Supervisors 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.

Votes:

Ayes:

Nays:

Absent from Vote:

Absent from Meeting:

ATTEST: _____

Clerk to the Board