



RESOLUTION OF THE BRISTOL VIRGINIA CITY COUNCIL SUPPORTING THE CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS OF CITIZENS

PREAMBLE

The City of Bristol City Council has received input from citizens expressing concerns about potential legislation that may be enacted by the 2020 General Assembly session which could infringe on the rights of citizens of the Commonwealth. This Resolution is intended to respond to concerns of all citizens.

WHEREAS, in the City of Bristol, we believe in the rule of law and support the Constitution of the United States including the Bill of Rights and the Constitution of Virginia in their entirety.

WHEREAS, each member of the City Council has taken an oath which states “I, _____, do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support the Constitution of the United States, and the Constitution and laws of the Commonwealth of Virginia, and that I will faithfully and impartially discharge and perform all the duties incumbent upon me as a Member of the City Council for the City of Bristol, Virginia, according to the best of my ability. So help me God.”.

WHEREAS, the City Council takes the oath of office seriously and actively works to protect all rights guaranteed by both the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of Virginia.

WHEREAS, the City Council enacts ordinances for the city to the extent authority has been specifically granted by the General Assembly. We have limited authority to pass laws, but we fully use our authority to protect and defend the rights of our citizens.

WHEREAS, the City Council is neither a law enforcement entity, nor responsible for prosecutions. Law enforcement in the city is entrusted to the Bristol Virginia Police Department and Sheriff. Prosecution of criminal cases are handled by the Commonwealth’s Attorney, who is elected by the citizens. Finally and most importantly, the City Council has no judicial authority. Interpretation and determination of the constitutionality of laws is performed by courts of competent jurisdiction either at the state or federal level.

WHEREAS, this resolution affirms our support for the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of Virginia and sends a clear message to our legislators and all elected officials that we respect our citizens’ rights, whether those rights are explicitly stated in either constitution or derived from decisions of the court process.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, this 9th day of December 2019, by the City Council for the City of Bristol:

That the City Council urges our Delegates, Senators, and the Governor to oppose the passage of any state laws that infringe upon the rights of the law-abiding citizens of the Commonwealth and rights derived from the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of Virginia.

That the City Council hereby expresses its intent to uphold all the rights of law-abiding citizens of the City of Bristol, Virginia, and

That the City Council hereby declares its intent to oppose any infringement on the rights of law-abiding citizens.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City Council requests that a copy of this resolution be provided to the General Assembly members representing the City of Bristol and to the Governor of Virginia.

The undersigned clerk of the City Council of the City of Bristol, hereby certifies that the resolution set forth above was adopted during an open meeting on December 9, 2019, by the City Council with the following votes:

Neal Osborne, Mayor	_____
Bill Hartley, Vice-Mayor	_____
Kevin N. Mumpower	_____
Kevin Wingard	_____
Anthony Farnum	_____
Abstentions:	
Absent:	

(SEAL)

By _____
Clerk

By _____
Mayor