

Ontonagon County Board of Commissioners

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Ontonagon, MI 49953

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Chairperson: Carl Nykanen
Vice Chairperson: John Cane

Commissioners: Richard Bourdeau
Robert Nousiainen
Ron Store

ONTONAGON COUNTY RESOLUTION 2023-09 AFFIRMING SUPPORT OF ALL CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, THE RIGHT OF THE PEOPLE TO BEAR ARMS AND TO ADEQUATELY FUND MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

WHEREAS all elected county and state office holders take an oath of office under which the office holder supports the Constitution of the United States of America and Constitution of Michigan and to faithfully discharge the duties of such offices;

WHEREAS the issue of constitutional rights, including but not limited to, the Second Amendment to the Constitution of the United States of America has been in the spotlight of public discussion of recent;

WHEREAS public discussion of such constitutional rights is a hallmark of public discourse in a democracy;

WHEREAS the lawful ownership, possession and use of firearms is part of the cultural heritage within Ontonagon County, Michigan;

WHEREAS it is common for firearms to be family heirlooms that pass from generation to generation as a permanent connection of the past to the present within extended families;

WHEREAS recent high-profile firearm shootings have involved individuals that have mental health issues that the mental health systems nationwide failed to timely, appropriately, and adequately address; and

WHEREAS funding for mental health services in the State of Michigan is woefully underfunded, resulting in the failure to adequately provide services to persons of the State of Michigan that need mental health services.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Ontonagon County Board of Commissioners supports and will continue to honor the pledge to support the Constitution of the United States of America as well as the Constitution of the State of Michigan, including all amendments thereto;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Ontonagon County Board of Commissioners direct our legislators whom act as representatives of the People of the State of Michigan to:

- A. Not undertake legislation that is in conflict with the Second Amendment to the United States of America and Article 1 sec. 6 of the Michigan Constitution of 1963, including:
 1. Red Flag Laws, excluding the current Personal Protection Order process;
 2. Registration requirements of full or long firearms;
 3. Mandatory storage schemes for firearms;
 4. Additional limitations on the lawful ownership and use of firearms; and
 5. Adoption of other schemes of regulation of firearms that infringe on the foregoing constitutional guarantees of the People of the State of Michigan.
- B. Adhere to their oath of office and not adopt legislation, rules, regulations and/or requirements that conflict with the Second Amendment to the Constitution of the United States and Article 1 sec. 6 of the Michigan Constitution and any final judicial determinations thereto;
- C. Adequately fund mental health services available in all our communities to provide for timely intervention with appropriate and adequate mental health services as an investment in the human capital of all persons of the State of Michigan; and

- D. Insure that the providing of adequately funded mental health services is accomplished by methods that do not infringe on the statutory and constitutional rights of those in need of mental health services.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that if in exercise of discretion by the Office of Sheriff and Office of Prosecuting Attorney both of the County of Ontonagon, determine that a law has been adopted which violates the Constitution of the United States of America, the Constitution of the State of Michigan, and any final judicial determinations thereto, that the Ontonagon County Board of Commissioners supports the lawful exercise of discretion not to enforce an unconstitutional law against any law abiding person within the County of Ontonagon;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Ontonagon County Clerk shall provide a copy of this Resolution to:

- A. Each township in the County of Ontonagon;
- B. Each county in the State of Michigan
- C. The Michigan House of Representative;
- D. The Michigan Senate;
- E. The Governor of the State of Michigan;
- F. Each United States Senator for the State of Michigan; and
- G. Each United States Congressman for the State of Michigan

The foregoing resolution was offered by Commissioner Nousiainen and supported by Commissioner Gane

AYES: Bourdeau, Store, Nykanen

NAYS: None

ABSTENTIONS: None

ABSENT: None

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the resolution adopted at a meeting of the Ontonagon County Board of Commissioner on April 18, 2023.

BY


Carl R. Nykanen, Board Chair

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