

RESOLUTION NO. RM2013-087

RESOLUTION OF THE CLARENDON TOWN BOARD Opposing the Process of Enactment and Certain Provisions Contained within the New York Secure Ammunition & Firearms Enforcement Act (NY SAFE ACT)

At a regular meeting of the Clarendon Town Board held Tuesday, February 19, 2013 at the Clarendon Town Hall, 16385 Church Street, Clarendon, NY, Councilman William Campbell moved to adopt the following Resolution; Seconded by Councilman E. John DeFilipps.

WHEREAS the right of the people to keep and bear arms is guaranteed as an individual right under the Second Amendment to the United States Constitution; and

WHEREAS the right of the people to keep and bear arms for defense of life, liberty and property is regarded as an inalienable right by the people of the Town of Clarendon and the State of New York; and

WHEREAS the lawful ownership of firearms is and has been, a valued tradition in Clarendon and the State of New York and the rights protected by the Second Amendment to the United States Constitution are exercised by many of our residents; and

WHEREAS the people of Clarendon and the State of New York derive economic and environmental benefits from all safe forms of recreation involving firearms, including but not limited to, hunting and target shooting while utilizing all types of firearms available under the Constitution of the United States; and

WHEREAS, members of the Clarendon Town Board, being elected to represent the people of the Town of Clarendon, are duly sworn by their oath of office to uphold the Constitution of the United States; and

WHEREAS members of the New York State Assembly and the New York State Senate, being elected by the people of New York State, are duly sworn by their oath of office to uphold the Constitution of the United States; and

WHEREAS the enactment of the NY SAFE Act (Chapter 1 of the Laws of 2013) has engendered significant controversy over both the process by which it was enacted and certain provisions contained within it; and

WHEREAS it is our understanding that many State Legislators had less than an hour to read the legislation which contained approximately twenty-five thousand words, before being forced to vote on it; and

WHEREAS having reviewed the legislation and time constraints, it is our conclusion that there is no possible way any individual could have read the entire bill and understood its full implications prior to voting on it; and

WHEREAS our State Legislators most certainly could not have had the time to request and receive the input of their constituents regarding this matter; and

WHEREAS seeking and considering such public input is a standard to which we hold ourselves to on the Clarendon Town Board; and

WHEREAS this legislation has 60 sections of which only three take effect immediately; and

WHEREAS in our opinion, there was no reason for the Governor to use a message of necessity to bring this bill to vote immediately and bypass the three day maturing process for all legislation; and

WHEREAS the mishandling of the process in crafting the NY SAFE Act resulted in complex policy changes, many of which have been left up to interpretation and are confusing even to the State Legislators who voted on them and the law enforcement officials who are required to enforce and explain them; and

WHEREAS requiring law-abiding gun owners to verify ownership of certain types of firearms every five years, in addition to registering them on their permits, which now also must be renewed every five years does not increase the safety of the public and is unnecessarily burdensome to the residents of New York State; and

WHEREAS there will be a significant financial impact due to the permits that will have to be renewed requiring additional manpower and computer systems; and

WHEREAS this legislation prohibits the sale of firearm magazines with a capacity larger than seven rounds; and

WHEREAS those firearm magazines with a capacity larger than seven rounds which are authorized to be retained by existing owners, may only be loaded with seven rounds and eventually must be permanently altered to only accept seven rounds or be disposed of, thus constituting a seizure of legally owned personal property with no provision for compensation; and

WHEREAS few or no low capacity (seven rounds or less) magazines currently exist for many of the firearms commonly possessed by law-abiding residents of New York State; and

WHEREAS limiting the number of rounds to seven versus ten is arbitrary and capricious, has no correlation to public safety, unfairly burdens law-abiding gun owners and puts an undue burden on gun manufacturers to retool their manufacturing plants; and

WHEREAS the only persons who will comply with the new high-capacity magazine ban are law-abiding citizens, leaving the same high-capacity magazines in the hands of those who choose not to obey the law; and

WHEREAS requiring documentation of all ammunition sales in New York State as provided for in this legislation, is a significant unfunded mandate on business; and

WHEREAS the New York State Combined Ballistic Identification System which wasted \$44 million in taxpayer money and resulted in zero convictions, illustrates the propensity of government to waste taxpayer resources when legislation is not properly reviewed, and

WHEREAS Governor Cuomo has proposed spending \$36 million dollars in his 2013-2014 Executive Budget for the implementation of the NY SAFE Act at a time when New York State residents are crying out for tax relief; and

WHEREAS this legislation severely impacts the possession and use of firearms now employed for safe forms of recreation including but not limited to, hunting and target shooting; and

WHEREAS while there are some areas of the legislation that the Clarendon Town Board finds encouraging such as addressing glaring shortcomings in the mental health system, as well as privacy protections for certain pistol permit holders, by-and-large, we find the legislation does little more than negatively impact lawful gun ownership; and

WHEREAS this legislation fails to offer any meaningful solutions to gun violence and places increased burdens where they do not belong, squarely on the backs of law-abiding citizens; and

WHEREAS this legislation effectively turns countless New York State law-abiding gun owners into criminals; and

WHEREAS the manner in which this legislation was brought forward for vote in the State Legislature is deeply disturbing to the Clarendon Town Board; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED that the Town Board of the Town of Clarendon does hereby oppose and request the repeal of any legislation including the sections within the NY SAFE Act (Chapter 1 of the Laws of 2013) which infringe upon the right of the people to keep and bear arms; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clarendon Town Board considers such laws to be unnecessary and beyond lawful legislative authority granted to our State representatives; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clarendon Town Board strongly encourages members of the New York State Legislature to hold public hearings to address the issue of gun violence in a way that will produce meaningful results; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clarendon Town Board requests the members of the New York State Senate and Assembly who represent all or part of Orleans County to reply in writing with their views on and actions taken in support of or in opposition to the NY SAFE Act; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be sent to President Barack Obama, Vice President Joseph Biden, Governor Andrew Cuomo, Senator Charles Schumer, Senator Kirsten Gillibrand, Congressman Chris Collins, New York State Senator George Maziarz, Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver, New York State Assembly members Steve Hawley and Jane Corwin, NYSAC, InterCounty of Western New York, New York State Association of Towns and all other deemed necessary and proper.

Upon being put to a vote, the foregoing Resolution was unanimously adopted; as follows:

Supervisor Richard H. Moy	Aye
Councilman Allen W. Robinson	Aye
Councilman William J. Campbell	Aye
Councilman Paul R. Nicosia	Aye
Councilman E. John DeFilipps	Aye

CERTIFICATE OF CLERK

State of New York:
County of Orleans: ss

I, Susan C. Colby, being the duly elected Town Clerk of the Town of Clarendon, County of Orleans, New York State, do hereby certify that I have compared the foregoing Resolution No. RM2013-087 duly adopted by the Town Board of the Town of Clarendon on the 19th day of February, 2013 with the original being a part of the minutes for said meeting now on file in my office, and the same is a correct and true copy of said Resolution.

Dated: February 27, 2013


Signature

