



# Village of South Jacksonville

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

TYSON L MANKER  
MAYOR

July 4, 2021

## MAYORAL ORDER 01-2021

There has grown a need to reaffirm certain principles of self-governance relating to the safety, health, and welfare of the People of South Jacksonville, Illinois. In an ideal world, violent people would not exist and perfect harmony could be achieved without law enforcement or having to worry about crimes being committed where you live. Unfortunately, no society, including ours, has ever rid itself of criminal and violent behavior, and as a result, the right to defend one's self against violence has always existed as a necessary norm in every free society.

The right of any law-abiding adult to own a weapon to defend themselves is a fundamental right of liberty that cannot and must not be denied. No civilization of prosperity since the beginning of time has ever abandoned the concept of self-defense. Here in the United States of America, the right to bear arms, so fundamental to breaking free from the British Crown, was enshrined in the federal Constitution so that all Americans could live free, forever. "The original right of self-defense," Alexander Hamilton wrote in Federalist No. 28, "is paramount to all positive forms of government ... provided the citizens understand their rights and are disposed to defend them."

The basic right of gun ownership for self-defense, guaranteed by our Constitution, has always been upheld by the U.S. Supreme Court—the highest court and the ultimate arbiter of law in our democratic Republic.<sup>1</sup> The right to own a gun for self-protection is further enshrined in the Constitution of the State of Illinois, that "Subject only to the police power, the right of the individual citizen to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed." International Law affirms these basic principles. Article 51 of the UN Charter Treaty, which the U.S. is a signatory to, recognizes the right of nations to "individual self-defense [against] an armed attack."

The right to defend your family, your person, and your property is a fundamental principle of American life, liberty and law. Naturally, the right to self-defense at home and while navigating daily responsibilities encounters certain limitations, when guns are not permitted in sensitive locations manned with armed security, like airports, courthouses, police stations, and other government buildings, where armed security is provided by the state. A principled stance regarding the right to bear arms recognizes

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<sup>1</sup> *District of Columbia v. Heller*, 554 U.S. 570 (2008); *McDonald v. City of Chicago*, 561 U.S. 742 (2010).

the state's ability to enact these reasonable spatial limitations which have no bearing on one's ability to own a gun for self-defense at home or while traveling.

For these reasons and in the spirit of liberty birthed in the year Seventeen Seventy-Six, as Mayor, I do proclaim the following policy in the Village of South Jacksonville, henceforth in perpetuity:

**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 Village of South Jacksonville, Illinois, and;

**WHEREAS**, the People of the Village of South Jacksonville, Illinois, derive economic benefit from all safe forms of firearms recreation, hunting and shooting conducted within Morgan County using all types of firearms allowable under the United States Constitution, and;

**WHEREAS**, Tyson Manker, the chief executive officer of the Village of South Jacksonville, being elected to represent the People of South Jacksonville, and being duly sworn by his Oath of Office to uphold the United States Constitution and the Constitution of the State of Illinois, and;

**WHEREAS**, legislation under consideration now (and in the future) by the Illinois State Legislature would infringe the Right to Keep and Bear Arms or ban the possession and use of firearms now employed by the individual citizens of the Village of South Jacksonville, Illinois, for defense of Life, Liberty, and Property and would ban the possession and use of firearms now employed for safe forms of firearms recreation, hunting and shooting conducted within Morgan County, Illinois;

**NOW, THEREFORE, IT BE AND IS HEREBY ORDERED** that the Second Amendment and interpreting Supreme Court cases are the Supreme Law of the land in the United States, the State of Illinois, and the Village of South Jacksonville, that no department within the Village of South Jacksonville may conduct unlawful gun confiscation efforts, and that no taxpayer resources shall be used at any time to seize, confiscate or otherwise impede the ownership of firearms that are lawfully owned by South Jacksonville residents pursuant to the Second Amendment to the United States Constitution.



*Tyson Manker*

Tyson L Manker, Mayor

**IN WITNESS THEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the great seal of the Village of South Jacksonville, Illinois, at Village Hall this Fourth day of July in the year of our Lord two thousand and twenty-one and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and forty-fifth.