



WASATCH COUNTY SHERIFF

Jared W. Rigby, Sheriff

Division Commanders
Corey Davis, Corrections
Brian Gardner, Investigations
Jeremy Hales, Comm./Emerg. Mgmt.
Josh Probst, Patrol
Kam Kohler, Search & Rescue

PRESS RELEASE: APRIL 19, 2021

THE CONSTITUTION

In this troubled time, it's important to me and for all of us to speak of that foundational document that has bound us together as a nation since 1787, the revered Constitution of the United States.

I speak as a friend of the Constitution and do not seek to use it as a sword against any group or individual.

Personally, I commence this important task by asking for Providence's help, hoping to assist our remarkable community in finding common ground and unity. This charge does not require individuals to compromise principles, merely to respect differences of perspective, belief and opinion.

As a community, we recognize the Constitution not only as the document that establishes the structure of our government, but in regards to the Bill of Rights, the first Ten Amendments, that which guarantees individual freedoms and rights, as well as limitations on federal and state governments.

The Declaration of Independence describes truths, such as all men being created equal, as "self-evident", "unalienable", and "endowed by the Creator". The Constitution is not the source of these rights, but the protector of them, especially from government employees who may infringe upon them.

We live in a time when once respected majority vote and robust discussion have reduced to personal attacks and struggles of power and domination. A zero-sum-game mentality, wherein a person or group wins only by causing the opponent to lose, abounds. The former civil discourse is the new uncivil discourse. However, with conscious effort and patience for each other, we can improve the environment. Although finger-pointing-outwardly may be the natural or easy default, each of us, including myself, can start with healthy introspection of ourselves and work to be respectful of differences of thought or method.

Of course we struggle in our public dialogue when such tremendous difficulty exists. The extreme heart ache and violence that are so commonplace are irrational and senseless. Individuals intent on using any means possible to kill and destroy large scale, daily target our houses of worship and places of learning, recreation and employment throughout the country.

In addition, the personal experience of many individuals' discrimination or unequal treatment across the nation have become issues of serious social concern. Those, plus events recently caused by a global health pandemic, have resulted in serious tests of constitutional principle. Those tests center on the right to assemble, the free exercise of religion, to keep and bear arms, police use or misuse of force—questions of constitutional seizure and due process, criminal defendants' right to a speedy trial, and criminal defendants' right to bail (in our State, a combined issue of constitutional principle and statute).



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The Tenth Amendment states, “The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people.”

Ours is the enormous responsibility and benefit of restoring peace in our nation and local community, a mission that starts within the lives of individuals and families. This is an individual duty borne by each of us—Americans in the mid-21st Century—objectives only we can ensure for our children and grandchildren.

Local and state elected officials should, to the extent permitted by law, facilitate and assist individuals in accomplishing their collective will to promote the general welfare of the community.

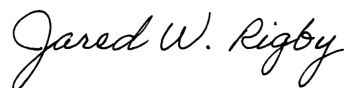
For the past several months, I have, at the request of citizens and the Wasatch County Council, participated in the work of a Second Amendment Committee (consisting of three citizens, three County Council members, and myself). A deputy county attorney was assigned to the Committee to provide legal advice. The Committee was charged with considering whether Wasatch County ought to become a “Second Amendment Sanctuary County” and reporting back to the full County Council to make the final decision.

The work of the Committee has resulted in Proposed Ordinance 21-04, which would make Wasatch County a Second Amendment Sanctuary County. ([Proposed ordinance](#)). The proposed ordinance will be introduced at Council Meeting on April 21, 2021 at 3:00 p.m. A public hearing will be held at 6:00 p.m., at which time public comment will be welcome. To attend or participate, please follow the instructions provided by the County [here](#).

I encourage each person to take time to read the proposed ordinance and share their respectful thoughts here, or with other elected county officials.

Please feel free to contact me using the information provided below.

Best regards,



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