A RESOLUTION BY THE JEFFERSON COUNTY COMMISSION REGARDING THE PRESERVATION AND PROTECTION OF HISTORICAL MONUMENTS, MEMORIALS AND MARKERS

WHEREAS Jefferson County is a diverse and historically significant community and to be absolutely sure there is no miscommunication regarding County, State and Federal Laws, and

WHEREAS we live in dangerous times, where emotions are running high, and for some reason people of hate find themselves free to initiate acts of violence against each other, and

WHEREAS affairs in Virginia and other states have led to racism and hate, the destruction of private and public property, acts of violence and even loss of life, and

WHEREAS racism is the ugliest form of collectivism, which treats people as groups rather than as individuals endowed by our Creator with the inalienable rights to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness, and

WHEREAS hate cannot find a home in Jefferson County, whether it be the KKK, Neo-Nazis or ANTIFA, and

WHEREAS the use of violence and force against individuals or groups of individuals cannot be tolerated, and

WHEREAS any use of force against persons or property must be prevented or swiftly dealt with, and

WHEREAS the First Amendment Rights of our citizens must be preserved, including controversial speech, and

WHEREAS it is immoral and illegal to assault one another or to destroy public or private property and there is no right to cause harm to another or to violate our historical monuments or markers

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THIS SECOND DAY OF NOVEMBER, 2017

- 1. That we the Jefferson County Commission condemn the actions of hate and the political use of historical markers and symbols to promote hate by such groups as the KKK, Neo-Nazis and ANTIFA.
- 2. That we the Jefferson County Commission condemn the current political use of historical monuments and symbols.
- 3. That we the Jefferson County Commission oppose, to the fullest extent of the law, any attempt to remove, alter, destroy or disturb memorials or markers on any public property in Jefferson County.
- 4. That we the Jefferson County Commission uphold the First Amendment to the United States Constitution and protect the use of free speech within Jefferson County recognizing that this does not include the destruction of public or private property nor the use of force against others.

Josh Compton, Commissioner

Jane Tabb, Commissioner

Caleb Hudson, Commissioner

Patricia A. Noland, Commissioner

Peter Onoszko, President Jefferson County Commission