

TOWN OF ONLEY, VIRGINIA

RESOLUTION TO CENSURE MAYOR MATTHEW HART

WHEREAS, we, the members of the Onley Town Council, are the duly elected representatives elected by the citizens of Onley, Virginia; and

WHEREAS, we, the members of the Onley Town Council, understand that holding public office is a privilege and we should be held to a higher standard of behavior; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Virginia Code §2.2-3711, we, the members of the Onley Town Council, held a special closed session meeting on May 19, 2020, at 6:30 p.m., to discuss personnel matters with the Mayor, and the performance of the Mayor, with the Mayor; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor chose not to attend that special closed session meeting on May 19, 2020, at 6:30 p.m.; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Virginia Code §15.2-1400(D), a governing body may punish or fine a member of the governing body for disorderly behavior; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Onley's mayor, Mayor Matthew Hart (i) has created a hostile work environment for town employees and town contractors for which formal complaints were filed; (ii) has publicly made false accusations regarding town employees; (iii) has threatened town employees "to watch out I'm coming for your jobs"; (iv) has confronted members of this Council with profanity and abusive language; (v) has spoken on behalf of the Town without the Town's permission; (vi) has repeatedly failed to follow proper parliamentary procedures in meetings, including, but not limited to, not allowing councilmen to speak multiple times during the May 2020 public meeting; and

WHEREAS, a Mayor's duty is to be the model of decorum for his or her township in the Commonwealth in Virginia; and

WHEREAS, in exercising our responsibility as leaders in this community, we are compelled to call attention to the unacceptable, inappropriate, and detrimental behavior of the Mayor.

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved that we the members of the Onley Town Council declare that the Mayor's behavior is unacceptable, inappropriate, and detrimental, and all of our residents deserve an explanation, an apology, and a plan to ensure this behavior ceases.

Adopted at the June regular monthly meeting of the Onley Town Council on this 1<sup>st</sup> day of June, 2020.

Attest:   
Jaime Salazar, Town Manager

Woody Zember:	Vote: Abstain
Susan Rillo:	Vote: Yes
Claudia Harmon:	Vote: Yes
Rose Pierson:	Vote: Abstain
Billye D. Custis	Vote: Yes
Ned Finney	Vote: Yes