

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE INTENT AND FAIR JUSTICE FOR VIRGINIAN CAPITOL HILL RALLY PARTICIPANTS ON JANUARY 6, 2021

Resolution:

WHEREAS, it has come to the attention to the Commonwealth of Virginia that certain individuals who claim Virginia residency (summarized in Annex 1) have been charged in relation to the events of January 6th, 2021, are being subjected to inhumane conditions¹ and unfair treatment by the Department of Justice (DOJ). This includes some individuals based on their military status; and

WHEREAS, it is reported that the DOJ is utilizing the military background of some defendants as a justification for pre-trial incarceration, thereby treating veterans with disdain solely because of their training; and

WHEREAS, according to a George Washington University report, 43 of 357 individuals (12%) charged in federal court for their role in the Capitol Hill “Save America” rally had some form of military experience. Of these 43 individuals, the vast majority (93%) were veterans and not currently serving in an Active Duty, reservist, or Guard status; and²

WHEREAS, among those affected are individuals who have received Purple Hearts for and Combat Action medals for their service, as well as a Green Beret, who are now being unjustly targeted and held in custody; and

WHEREAS, in comparison, the 2020 Black Lives Matter riots in over 140 U.S. cities cost an estimated \$2 billion dollars in damages³ with a large majority of citations against protestors dropped. This included felony charges for looting and armed assault that led to deaths,⁴⁵ and

WHEREAS, as one example, Malik Fard Muhammad, one of several Antifa rioters⁶ was sentenced to 10 years in federal prison and three years’ supervised release after the Oregon district of the U.S. Attorney’s Office said he repeatedly and intentionally jeopardized the lives of police officers, destroyed public property, and encouraged others to commit violence during the protests; and

WHEREAS, Muhammad’s time is less than J6 Patriot, Thomas J. Robertson of Ferrum, Virginia, a police officer who was off-duty and sentenced to 87 months in prison, three years of supervised release. Robertson was armed with a “stick” versus Muhammad who used Molotov cocktails thrown at police and was arrested with a loaded handgun nearby; and

WHEREAS, as another example, in Philadelphia, police sent over 1,700 charges to the city and the office of the district attorney. Almost 95% of the charges were dropped with more serious misdemeanours (including vandalism) and felonies managed through a

¹ [Jan. 6 detainees request transfers to Guantanamo Bay over D.C. jail conditions : NPR](#)

² [This is War.pdf \(gwu.edu\)](#)

³ [Fact check: Thousands of Black Lives Matter protesters arrested in 2020 \(usatoday.com\)](#)

⁴ [At least 25 Americans were killed during protests and political unrest in 2020 | Protest | The Guardian](#)

⁵ [Who Are Antifa, and Are They a Threat? \(csis.org\)](#)

⁶ [More than two dozen Antifa rioters charged for Portland mayhem \(nypost.com\)](#)

restorative justice program that involved a mix of meeting with victims, community service and referrals to job and education programs;⁷ and

WHEREAS, it is recognized that individuals charged in connection to the events of January 6th, 2021, commonly referred to as "J6ers," may face challenges in reintegrating into society, including difficulties in gaining employment, securing housing, and exercising their First Amendment rights.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Republican Party of Virginia (RPV) applauds the admirable action of U.S. President Donald J. Trump's intent to pardon supporters charged during the rally on January 6, 2021 after his victorious election in November 2024; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the RPV condemns the abusive behavior suffered by many January 6th defendants and expresses its support for veterans who have honorably served their country; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the RPV through the Attorney General demands that the Department of Justice cease using military status as a weapon against defendants and instead uphold the principles of justice and fairness in all legal proceedings; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the RPV stands in solidarity with all veterans who have dedicated themselves to the defense of our nation and calls upon the federal government to treat them with the respect and dignity they deserve, regardless of any charges they may face; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Commonwealth of Virginia declares itself a sanctuary state for J6ers, committed to providing support and assistance to individuals who may face challenges in employment, housing, and exercising their Second Amendment rights; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Commonwealth of Virginia encourages collaboration with community organizations, non-profits, and other entities to provide support services, counseling, and other resources to assist J6ers in their transition back into society; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Commonwealth of Virginia shall establish programs and initiatives aimed at assisting J6ers in finding gainful employment, accessing affordable housing, and navigating any legal processes necessary to restore their First Amendment rights, while ensuring public safety and adherence to all applicable laws; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Commonwealth of Virginia calls upon employers, landlords, and other stakeholders to refrain from discriminating against J6ers based solely on their association with the events of January 6th, 2021, and to consider each individual based on their qualifications, character, and commitment to lawful conduct moving forward.

⁷ [Most charges against George Floyd protesters dropped, analysis shows | US policing | The Guardian](#)

ANNEX 1: List of J6 Individuals with Virginia Residency⁸

- **Markus Maly**, 49, of Fincastle, Virginia, was sentenced to 72 months in prison and 36 months of supervised release after being found guilty of a number of charges related to the assaulting of officers.
- **Geoffrey William Sills**, 31, of Mechanicsville, Virginia, was sentenced to 52 months in prison, 36 months of supervised release and ordered to pay \$2,000 for charges that included assaulting an officer.
- **Joshua Dillon Haynes**, 40, of Covington, Virginia, was sentenced to 32 months in prison and 36 months of supervised release after pleading guilty to obstruction of an official proceeding and destruction of property.
- **Thomas J. Robertson**, 49, of Ferrum, Virginia, a police officer who was off-duty on January 6, was sentenced to 87 months in prison, three years of supervised release and ordered to pay \$2,000 on six charges, including five felonies. U.S. Attorney Matthew Graves said he joined the mob "while armed with a stick."
- **Antionne DeShaun Brodnax**, of Sandston, Virginia, was sentenced to five months in prison, a year of supervised release and ordered to pay a combined \$570 after pleading guilty to four charges, including disorderly conduct in a Capitol building.
- **Edward E. Hemenway II**, 38, of Winchester, Virginia, was sentenced to 45 days in prison, 60 hours of community service and ordered to pay a combined \$510 after pleading guilty to one charge of demonstrating in the Capitol.
- **Ryan Seth Suleski**, 33, of Williamsburg, Virginia, was sentenced to 60 days in prison, 60 hours of community service and ordered to pay a combined \$550 after pleading guilty to two charges: entering a restricted building and theft of government property.
- **Luke Wessley Bender**, 21, of Fairfax Station, Virginia, was sentenced to 21 months in prison, three years of supervised release and ordered to pay a combined \$2,180 on several charges, including disorderly conduct in a restricted building.
- **Kene Brian Lazo**, 42, of Norfolk, Virginia, was sentenced to 45 days in prison and ordered to pay a combined \$510 after pleading guilty to one charge of demonstrating in the Capitol.

⁸ [Full List of Capitol Rioters Jailed So Far and the Sentences They Are Serving \(newsweek.com\)](#) – as of September 2023. For current data as of November 2023, referencd the GWU J6 Defendant Tracker at: [Capitol Hill Siege Defendants Tracker | Program on Extremism | The George Washington University \(gwu.edu\)](#)

- **Robert Keith Packer**, 57, of Newport News, Virginia, was sentenced to 75 days in prison and ordered to pay a combined \$510 after pleading guilty to one charge of demonstrating in the Capitol.
- **Dennis Sidorski**, 46, of Ashburn, Virginia, was sentenced to 100 days in prison, a year of supervised release, 50 hours of community service and ordered to pay a combined \$525 after pleading guilty to disorderly and disruptive conduct.
- **Weston Sobotka**, 26, of Ashburn, Virginia, was sentenced to 15 days intermittent incarceration, 50 hours of community service and ordered to pay a combined \$510 after pleading guilty to one charge of demonstrating in the Capitol.
- **Hatchet M. Speed**, 40, of Vienna, Virginia, was sentenced to four years in prison, three years of supervised release and ordered to pay a combined \$12,170 on several charges, including obstruction of an official proceeding.