

Resolution 2014-04
Blendon Township
Franklin County, Ohio

Community Bill of Rights

Section 1 - Authority

This Community Bill of Rights is enacted pursuant to the inherent right of the residents of the Township of Blendon to govern their own community, including, without limitation, the Declaration of Independence's declaration that governments are instituted to secure the rights of people, and the State of Ohio's Constitution's recognition that all political power is inherent in the people.

Section 2 - Findings and Purpose

Whereas, the citizens of Blendon Township recognize that environmental, neighborhood, and economic sustainability cannot be achieved if the rights of local governments majorities are routinely overridden by unfunded Federal mandates, State and County Agencies, State and County Courts, and corporate minorities claiming certain legal powers; and

Whereas, the citizens of Blendon Township believe that local legislation that embodies the interests of the community is mandated by the doctrine of the consent of the governed, and the right to local, community self-government;

Whereas, the citizens of Blendon Township believe that the protection of residents, neighborhoods, and the natural environment constitutes the highest and best use of the police powers that this township possesses;

Whereas, the citizens of Blendon are equally entitled to the basic rights of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness, without the creation of privileged groups exempt from the laws and standards of the Township;

Therefore, the residents of Blendon Township, Ohio hereby adopt this resolution which creates a community bill of rights for the residents and neighborhood communities of Blendon Township.

Section 3 - Statements of Law - A Community Bill of Rights

3.1. The Right to a Locally-Based Economy

Residents have the right to a locally-based economy to ensure local job creation and enhance local business opportunities. The right shall include the right to have local monies reinvested locally by lending institutions, and the right to equal access to capital, credit, contracts, incentives, and services for businesses owned by Blendon Township residents.

3.2. The Right To Affordable And Safe Housing

Residents have the right to affordable housing, the right to a safely-maintained dwelling, and the right to be free from housing discrimination. The Township shall ensure the availability of low-income housing stock sufficient to meet the needs of the low-income housing community. People and families may only be denied renting or buying of a dwelling for non-discriminatory reasons and may only be evicted from their residence for non-discriminatory causes.

Recognizing that the State and County use "group" homes in neighborhoods as a way of attempting to assimilate offenders and other wards of the state into society, the residents of

Blendon have the right to have neighborhood community standards maintained, even in homes established by State or County agencies and run by those agencies or corporate surrogates. Such homes should adhere to all laws relating to behavior, decency, freedom from intimidation, and property maintenance. Blendon residents have the right not to have their property values lowered, their right to the pursuit of happiness threatened, or their neighborhood standards lowered by any Federal, State or County Agency because of the placement of violent offenders and other wards of the state being placed into neighborhoods without proper protocol and response to resident's concerns.

Residents have the right to know when violent offenders and other wards of the state are being housed in homes provided by private organizations working for the county or State of Ohio. Residents have a right to have a clear grievance process in place when any group home is established in the neighborhoods.

3.3. Rights for Nature

Ecosystems and natural communities within the Township of Blendon possess inalienable rights to exist and flourish. The rights of rivers, streams, and aquifers shall include the right to sustainable recharge, flows sufficient to protect native fish habitat, and clean water. Blendon Township has standing to enforce and protect these rights.

3.4. Right to Water

All residents, natural communities and ecosystems in Blendon Township possess a fundamental and inalienable right to sustainable access, use, consumption, and preservation of water drawn from natural water cycles that provide water necessary to sustain life within the Township without cost disproportionate with that of surrounding communities.

3.5. The Right to Affordable and Renewable Energy

Residents have the right to access affordable and renewable energy sources.

3.6. Right to Constitutional Protections in the Workplace

Employees shall possess United States and Ohio Bill of Rights' constitutional protections in the workplace within the Township of Blendon, and workers in unionized workplaces shall possess the right to collective bargaining. Non-union workers in unionized workplaces shall not be assessed union fees and dues against their wishes.

3.7. Right to Clean and Fair Elections Free from Corporate Interference

Residents of Blendon Township possess the right to fair elections, which shall include the right to an electoral process free from corporate involvement. For the purposes of these statements "corporate" defines any large public company, outside political committee or party, and other such interference in local affairs.

3.8. Right to Clean Government

Residents of Blendon Township have the right to clean government, which shall include the right to a Township legislative process free from corporate lobbying and involvement.

Section 4 - People's Right to Self-Government

All residents of Blendon Township possess the fundamental and inalienable right to a form of governance where they live which recognizes that all power is inherent in the people, that all free governments are founded on the people's authority and consent, and that corporate entities and their directors and managers shall not enjoy special privileges or powers under the law which make community majorities subordinate to them. Elected officials will conduct the business of the township in such a way as to be wholly transparent and accommodating to public review and debate of critical issues before them.

Section 5 - Enforcement


5.1. Blendon Township may enforce this Community Bill of Rights through an action in equity brought in the Franklin County courts. In such an action, the Township shall be entitled to recover all costs of litigation, including, without limitation, expert and attorney's fees.

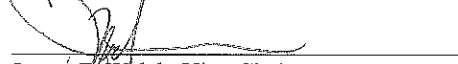
Section 6 - Severability

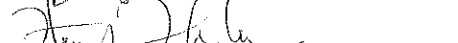
The provisions of this Community Bill of Rights are severable. If any court of competent jurisdiction decides that any section, clause, sentence, part, or provision of this resolution is illegal, invalid, or unconstitutional, such decision shall not affect, impair, or invalidate any of the remaining sections, clauses, sentences, parts, or provisions of the Community Bill of Rights.

Adopted: January 15, 2013

Attest: 
Wade L. Estep, Fiscal Officer


Jamiee D. Heichel, Chairperson


James P. Welch, Vice-Chairman


Stewart L. Flaherty, Trustee