

RESOLUTION NO. _____

RESOLUTION AFFIRMING SUPPORT FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT AND THE RULE OF LAW

WHEREAS, the rule of law is a foundational principle of the United States under which all persons, institutions, and entities, including government actors, are accountable to laws that are publicly enacted, equally enforced, independently adjudicated, and consistent with constitutional protections and due process, such that no one is above the law, as recognized by the United States federal judiciary and constitutional tradition;¹ and

¹ Source: United States Courts, *Overview of the Rule of Law*, U.S. Courts Educational Resources (uscourts.gov)

WHEREAS, law enforcement is a core governmental function that exists to uphold the rule of law, protect public safety, and preserve civil order within legally established boundaries; and

WHEREAS, the City of St. Cloud, Minnesota, is located within and interacts with Stearns, Benton, and Sherburne Counties, and lawful law enforcement activity occurs within the City by city, county, state, and federal entities operating under their respective jurisdictions and each have distinct and lawful roles in maintaining public order and enforcing the law; and

WHEREAS, the legitimacy of law enforcement depends on adherence to constitutional limits, the rule of law, jurisdictional boundaries, due process, and accountability under the law, which requires public trust, cooperation and respect of lawful authority; and

WHEREAS, public safety and civil order are best maintained when law enforcement operates lawfully and consistently, fostering trust, cooperation, and confidence between governmental institutions and the public; and

WHEREAS, the St. Cloud City Council seeks to affirm its commitment to lawful governance, public safety, and civil order without endorsing actions taken outside the scope of the law.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ST. CLOUD, MINNESOTA THAT:

1. The City Council affirms its support for the rule of law and law enforcement as essential functions of lawful government within the City limits of St. Cloud, Minnesota.
2. This support applies to law enforcement occurring within the City by city, county, state, and federal entities operating lawfully within their established jurisdictions.
3. This resolution affirms law enforcement only as exercised in accordance with the rule of law, and does not endorse, excuse, or justify conduct that exceeds constitutional, statutory, or jurisdictional limits.
4. Support for law enforcement under the rule of law is not selective and applies equally to all lawful law enforcement within the City limits, regardless of level of government.
5. Nothing in this resolution alters existing City policy, directs enforcement activity, or expands or restricts cooperation beyond what is permitted by law.
6. This resolution is declaratory in nature and expresses the values and commitments of the City Council without creating new legal rights, duties, or obligations.
7. The City Council reaffirms that accountability, due process, and the protection of civil liberties are fundamental components of public safety and lawful governance

Adopted this ____ day of _____, 2026.