

**OPPOSING THE CLOSING OF GUANTANAMO BAY DETENTION FACILITY AND
OPPOSING THE TRANSFER OR HOUSING OF ANY TERRORIST DETAINEE AT THE
UNITED STATES NAVAL BRIG CHARLESTON LOCATED IN THE CITY OF HANAHAN,
BERKELEY COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA**

WHEREAS, the United States Government established the Guantanamo Bay Detention Facility (GTMO), a detention facility at the United States Naval Station at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, in 2002 for the specific purpose of housing enemy combatants captured during the Global War on Terror; and

WHEREAS, the United States Congress passed the Military Commissions Act of 2009 to “establish procedures governing the use of military commissions to try alien unlawful enemy combatants engaged in hostilities against the United States for violations of the law of war and other offenses triable by military commission” and to provide a legal process for prosecuting unlawful enemy combatants through military tribunals, not through the United States Civilian Justice System; and

WHEREAS, the United States Congress passed the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for Fiscal Year 2011 and every subsequent year that specifically forbids the appropriation of funds for the purpose of closing GTMO; and

WHEREAS, the United States Congress has the sole authority for such appropriations under Article I, Section 9, Clause 7 of the United States Constitution that reads, “No Money shall be drawn from the Treasury, but in Consequence of Appropriations made by Law”; and

WHEREAS, GTMO currently houses several of the most dangerous terrorists in the world including Khaled Sheikh Mohammad, hereafter named KSM (the self-confessed mastermind of the 9/11 attacks and the kidnapping-murder of journalist Daniel Pearl); Ramzi Bin al-Shibh (a key facilitator for the 9/11 attacks and the lead operative in a plot to crash hijacked aircraft into the United Kingdom’s Heathrow Airport); Abu Faraj al-Libi (KSM’s operational successor and number three leader of al-Qaeda after bin Laden and al-Zawahiri); Abdal al-Rahim al-Nashiri (the mastermind behind the 2000 bombing of the USS Cole); and Abu Zubaydah (a facilitator of attempted Millennium terrorist attacks on targets in the US and Jordan); and

WHEREAS, the United States Naval Consolidated Brig Charleston (NAVCONBRIG CHASN), is a medium security facility, is completely inadequate to house high-risk and high-profile terrorists, is located near several residential communities, is located within miles of one of the most active tourist destinations in the world, and is located within miles of the fourth-largest container port on the eastern United States seaboard; and

WHEREAS, NAVCONBRIG CHASN is adjacent to the Space and Naval Warfare Systems Center Atlantic Headquarters (SPAWAR Atlantic), which is responsible for 4,100 direct jobs in Berkeley County, over 17,000 direct jobs in the State of South Carolina, and over 13,000 indirect jobs – all of which represent \$1.7 billion of annual labor income and an annual economic output of \$3.7 billion; and

WHEREAS, in August 2007, after the detention and interrogation of terrorist suspect Jose Padilla at NAVCONBRIG CHASN – Kuwaiti-born Ahmed Abdellatif Sherif Mohamed was apprehended just outside of the gates of Charleston Naval Weapons Station, where NAVCONBRIG CHASN is located; and

WHEREAS, ammunition and explosives were found in Ahmed Abdellatif Sherif Mohamed's vehicle along with a laptop holding videos he created on how to manufacture a remote bomb detonator; and

WHEREAS, Ahmed Abdellatif Sherif Mohamed has since pled guilty to providing material support to terrorism and is in a federal maximum security prison; and

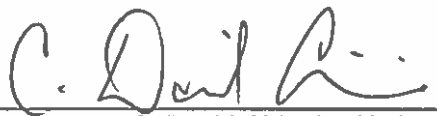
WHEREAS, as shown by the Ahmed Abdellatif Sherif Mohamed incident, housing foreign terrorists at NAVCONBRIG CHASN would drastically increase the risk of terrorism activity in the Charleston Region and endanger the lives of innocent American men, women and children; and

WHEREAS, housing foreign terrorists at NAVCONBRIG CHASN could do irreversible economic harm to Berkeley County and the entire Lowcountry region, potentially jeopardizing over 31,000 SPAWAR Atlantic-related jobs and jeopardizing a significant number of tourism-related jobs.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by Dorchester County Council, in a meeting duly assembled, that Council opposes the closing of the Guantanamo Bay Detention Facility, opposes any attempt to relocate unlawful enemy combatants to the United States, opposes the use of United States Civilian Courts to prosecute said unlawful enemy combatants and vigorously opposes the use of the United States Consolidated Naval Brig Charleston in Berkeley County to house any unlawful enemy combatant or terrorists at any time.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that upon adoption of this Resolution, the original shall be presented to the Dorchester County Congressional Delegation, and a copy filed in the permanent records of Dorchester County, South Carolina.

ADOPTED this 21ST day of March, 2016.

BY: 
C. David Chinnis, Chairman
Dorchester County Council

ATTEST: 
Sally K. Hebert
Clerk to Council