

RESOLUTION NO. 1592

**A RESOLUTION PROHIBITING THE DISPLAY OR USE OF THE THIN BLUE
LINE AMERICAN FLAG ON ALL TOWNSHIP PROPERTY**

SPRINGFIELD TOWNSHIP, MONTGOMERY COUNTY

WHEREAS, the “Thin Blue Line” phrase refers to the line between chaos and order, with law enforcement officers as the barrier preventing any further encroachment of chaos upon order; and

WHEREAS, the traditional “Thin Blue Line” flag was depicted as a black field with a single, narrow blue line (hereinafter referred to as the “Traditional Thin Blue Line Flag”); and

WHEREAS, a variation of the Traditional Thin Blue Line Flag incorporating a black and white American flag with one blue stripe was subsequently created as a sign of support for law enforcement officers (hereinafter referred to as the “Thin Blue Line American Flag”); and

WHEREAS, over time, and partially in negative response to the “Black Lives Matter” flag, the Thin Blue Line American Flag has also come to represent opposition to racial justice movements, including the Black Lives Matter cause, and in some instances has become a symbol of white supremacy, and is recognized as such by individuals and communities of color; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners has received public comment from many Springfield Township (hereinafter referred to as the “Township”) residents suggesting that any continuing display of the Thin Blue Line American Flag after its usurpation by white supremacist groups, appears to express support for the systemic oppression of certain members of the Township community, notwithstanding the original intent to simply support police departments and their officers; and

WHEREAS, the publicly visible display of the Thin Blue Line American Flag symbol by Township employees while working for the Township (or off-duty while in uniform) or the installation or affixation of the Thin Blue Line American Flag symbol on any Township-owned property by any person, is contrary to the core values of the Township, and impedes efforts to build trust among all citizens in the policing services provided by the Township through its well-respected Police Department.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of Springfield Township does, as a matter of respect and sensitivity to all the citizens of the Township, hereby prohibit the publicly visible display or use of any image which depicts the Thin Blue Line American Flag symbol by any Township employee, agent or consultant and in an effort to be clear and as reasonably limited as possible, specifically prohibits the following:

- 1) The publicly visible depiction of the symbol on the clothing or skin of any Township employee, agent or consultant while on duty, during the workday of the individual or while representing the Township in any way (specifically including the off duty time of any such individual if still wearing the Township uniform).

- 2) The publicly visible depiction of the Thin Blue Line American flag symbol on any personal property of a township employee, agent or consultant, which is brought into the township building, and which, in the reasonable opinion of the Township Manager, is placed in a location likely to be seen by a member of the public while visiting the township building.
- 3) The display, by installation or affixation of a publicly visible depiction of the symbol, on township owned property (including township vehicles), by any person.”

Adopted this 11TH day of January, 2023

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF
SPRINGFIELD TOWNSHIP

By:

James M. Lee, President

ATTEST:

A. Michael Taylor, Secretary