

MAY 18TH, 1884

BOOMTOWN CHARTER

We, the citizens of the good State of Washington

— ON THIS —

THE 18TH DAY OF MAY IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD 1884

do solemnly and without reservation *RATIFY* this *TOWN CHARTER* and
twenty APPENDING ARTICLES, thus establishing in perpetuity & for all time

THE TOWNSHIP & BOOMTOWN

ARTICLE ONE

For Best Results, Add Fireworks

ARTICLE TWO

Politeness & Civility Always

ARTICLE THREE

The Least Government is the Best Government

ARTICLE FOUR

Buy Local

ARTICLE FIVE

Blow Something Up

ARTICLE SIX

Exercise Restraint

ARTICLE SEVEN

Mind Your Own Business, Except...

ARTICLE EIGHT

Look Out for Number Two

ARTICLE NINE

Promote the Community, Not Yourself

ARTICLE TEN

Respect Authority, Honor the Honorable

ARTICLE ELEVEN

Get Married, Stay Married

ARTICLE TWELVE

Celebrate Cultures

ARTICLE THIRTEEN

Work Hard, Play Hard

ARTICLE FOURTEEN

Eat Well, Laugh Often

ARTICLE FIFTEEN

Entertain the Mind, Elevate the Spirit

ARTICLE SIXTEEN

Invest in Education

ARTICLE SEVENTEEN

Preservation First, Progress Second

ARTICLE EIGHTEEN

Reuse Everything

ARTICLE NINETEEN

Own Less, Share More

ARTICLE TWENTY

Show Mercy

the ARTICLES, et cetera

To further explain the intention and spirit of the Twenty Charter Principles upon which Boomtown is founded, these notes are thereby appended. However, understanding that each community is subject to its own peculiar circumstances, others may interpret the principles differently, as is their right and responsibility.

The citizenry of Boomtown hopes that others will apply themselves to the ideals described herein.

To this end, here are, with the utmost humility, the Articles et cetera of the Boomtown Charter:

ARTICLE I: We believe that fireworks enhance most, if not all, human activity. We admit that fireworks are frivolous and unnecessary; but a good life needs a little unnecessary frivolity now and then.

ARTICLE II: Name calling, crude joking, foul language, rude comments—why pollute the air with ugly words? Civility and politeness go a long way toward diffusing arguments and facilitating dialogue.

ARTICLE III: Thomas Jefferson said, “That government is best which governs the least, because its people discipline themselves.” Boomtown encourages its citizens to live by the Royal Law to, “Love your neighbor as yourself.” Beyond this, formal government is barely necessary.

ARTICLE IV: When people buy produce, materials and services from local merchants, prices go down and the local economy prospers. Keep the town’s money inside the town.

ARTICLE V: Of course, we don’t *literally* mean to “blow something up”. It’s just that every now and then, life gets stuck in a rut. Ideas become stale. Routine becomes, well, too routine. So, shake things up a little—try something new—let in some light—take a different road. Sometimes, you’ve built obstacles in your path that keep you from moving forward. Blow them up. A little healthy destruction can open the way to a whole new perspective.

ARTICLE VI: Those who exercise personal restraint are able to postpone gratification. They are willing to wait and work for what is worth having. They are willing to live without, as necessary. They are willing to forego selfish gain for the sake of the greater good. They speak only when it improves the silence.

ARTICLE VII: It is not necessary to know everyone else’s business, as long as whatever business they are engaged in does not disturb or harm the neighbors or themselves. However, when it becomes evident that a citizen is purposely harming another (including himself), it is EVERYONE’s business to hold the person accountable for their actions and intervene on behalf of the victim.

ARTICLE VIII: A good society cares for those who are unable to care for themselves. It is the responsibility of the neighborhood, not the government, to make provision for those in need.

ARTICLE IX: A community tends to reward those with special talent and ability. Star athletes, artists and others should return the favor by giving back to the community that rewarded them.

ARTICLE X: People in positions of authority—policemen, firemen, military, teachers, doctors, council members, clergy, etc.—deserve respect. Likewise, they should set the example when it comes to respecting the citizens they serve, especially women, children, the elderly, people of color and people of faith.

ARTICLE XI: The surest way to raise good citizens is to provide children with an unbroken family heritage. Divorce tears a community apart like nothing else can. Children need a direct line connecting them to their mothers and fathers, brothers and sisters, grandparents, aunts, uncles and cousins.

ARTICLE XII: We tend to fear people who are different from us. Imagine if we celebrated those differences instead. What if we were fascinated by their language, race, food, dances, clothing and history? What if we honored people’s “infirmities” instead of making fun of them? However, in order to celebrate, we must be able to communicate. The English language is what enables American culture to embrace every culture.

ARTICLE XIII: Work and play are the two activities that bind a neighborhood together. Those who work hard and play fair with diligence and enthusiasm deserve to enjoy the benefits a community produces. On the other hand, if you won’t work, you shouldn’t eat. Lazy people should only get what they’ve earned.

ARTICLE XIV: Food serves two purpose: it feeds the body and it brings people together. Food and drink should be healthy and eaten in moderation, but it should also be fun. Laughter is good medicine. Lighten up your diet and your attitude.

ARTICLE XV: Whatever elevates the spirit and inspires the mind—good books, music, art, drama, dance, exercise, lively conversation—these should be encouraged. Whatever degrades the spirit and darkens the mind, these should be avoided. Say yes to whatever gets you up and moving. Say no to sedentary, passive entertainments.

ARTICLE XVI: Schools, libraries, museums and the like should be the most well-funded institutions in any community. Teachers should be regarded, above all, as the most important people in town.

ARTICLE XVII: “New” is not always better. Before chasing after the latest new thing, careful thought must be given to the value and preservation of what already exists. Keeping what one has must take precedence over obtaining what one doesn’t.

ARTICLE XVIII: Chief Sealath wrote: “Whatever befalls the earth, befalls the sons of the earth. If men spit upon the ground, they spit upon themselves.” We must use fewer resources, and reuse as many used resources as possible. We must make the protection of the earth more important than the protection of our personal convenience.

ARTICLE XIX: We must learn to live with less. What is more admirable: to own two cars or to co-own a second car with our neighbors? Do we need a bigger house or do we need a bigger soul? Do we need more money or do we need more friends?

ARTICLE XX: People make mistakes; it is the burden of humanity. To alleviate that burden, we must, whenever possible, show mercy on our neighbor. Be assured: you will need the grace you give today given back to you tomorrow. So, if your neighbor breaks his promise, but shows remorse and is willing to make amends, extend a hand of forgiveness and restore the bond of trust. Mercy, not judgment, can and will save a community.