
title: “The Dutchtown Digital Bill of Rights” subtitle: “Nine articles for community-owned, sovereign AI infrastructure” author: “Dutchtown Owns Dutchtown”

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The Dutchtown Digital Bill of Rights

A neighborhood’s working draft of the rights it intends to keep, in writing, before any infrastructure is built on its block.

Article I · The Right to Possession

The data, the models, and the hardware that serve this neighborhood are physically held *in* this neighborhood. No third-party root account. No remote kill switch. The bits live where the people live.

Article II · The Right to Operation

The community decides what is run, how it is run, when it is run, and on whose behalf. Maintainers serve the community. Vendors serve the maintainers. Procurement serves the people, not the other way around.

Article III · The Right to Inspection

Every layer of the stack is open to audit. Source code, training data sources, model documentation, deployment configuration, logs. We can answer in plain English the question *what does this thing actually do?*

Article IV · The Right to Benefit

Surplus value created by this infrastructure — revenue, training data, knowledge, models, compute capacity — returns to the community. Not exported, not extracted, not capitalized into a balance sheet on a different coast.

Article V · The Right to Refusal

The right to say *no*. To delete data, retire a model, decline a use case, shut a node down. To refuse hosting for surveillance, predictive policing, biometric harvesting, eviction-scoring, or generative substitution of local creative labor. Sovereignty without refusal is decoration.

Article VI · The Right to Be Counted, in Your Own Language

Spanish, Vietnamese, Bosnian — and more as the neighborhood needs. Every meeting, every document, every digital tool, in the resident's own language, at the moment it happens. Language access is not a translation budget line; it is a design constraint.

Article VII · The Right to Govern

A Community Data Governance Council seats long-time residents, recent immigrants, working-class neighbors, youth, and elders, with documented composition rules. ≥50% BIPOC. Decisions about data, models, and use cases are made by residents, in the open, with documented votes.

Article VIII · The Right to a Stable Home

The Community Stabilization Fund — a fixed percentage of every grant and revenue stream — is reserved by policy for direct anti-displacement spending so the people who are here today are still here tomorrow. Property-tax assistance, emergency rent stabilization, home-repair micro-grants for long-time households.

Article IX · The Right to Public-Health Rigor

Environmental health relationships are studied through standard public-health methodology, in partnership with academic institutions, IRB-reviewed where appropriate. Wellness services and research are kept separate by policy. Findings are published transparently, in the neighborhood's languages.

How to adapt this for your block

Replace *Dutchtown* with your neighborhood. Replace *Spanish, Vietnamese, Bosnian* with your block's languages. Replace *Solara Frequency Foundation* with your fiscal home. Keep the nine articles. The blueprint is yours.

dutchtownowns dutchtown.org · *By the people. For the people.*