

**WHITE EARTH RESERVATION BUSINESS COMMITTEE
WHITE EARTH BAND OF CHIPPEWA INDIANS**

Resolution No. _____

WHEREAS, the White Earth Reservation Business Committee (“RBC”) is the duly elected governing body of the White Earth Reservation pursuant to Article VI, Section 1, of the revised constitution of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe, as amended, and organized under Section 16, of the Act of June 18, 1934 (48 Stat. 984), and

WHEREAS, the White Earth Reservation Business Committee is the duly authorized governing body of the White Earth Band, and

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, Minnesota Governor Walz declared a peacetime emergency due to the COVID-19 pandemic. On March 16, 2020, Governor Walz issued Emergency Executive Order 20-04 to mitigate the transmission of COVID-19 by restricting environments where the public congregates in groups, and

WHEREAS, on March 17, 2020, the White Earth RBC declared a state of emergency for the White Earth Reservation in response to the highly contagious COVID-19 outbreak, and activated the Emergency Management Team to coordinate all relief efforts in order to save lives, to protect property and public health and safety, and to lessen or avert the threat of a catastrophe on the White Earth Indian Reservation, and

WHEREAS, the White Earth RBC must enact necessary measures to protect life and property, and to attempt to bring the emergency situation under control, and

WHEREAS, the White Earth RBC is committed to protecting the wellbeing of all tribal members and tribal employees at all times but especially during the COVID-19 pandemic, and especially those who are most vulnerable to this pandemic, recognizing that many of our tribal homes contain several generations, and

WHEREAS, the White Earth RBC believes that similar restrictions must be in place within the exterior boundaries of the White Earth Reservation so that we do our part to decrease the chances that the COVID-19 virus infects and spreads within our community and endangers our way of life, and

WHEREAS, the White Earth RBC supports our community members remaining at home beginning March 25, 2020, as much as reasonably possible, adhering to the following guidelines:

- Businesses and operations must not require their employees or contractors to leave their homes unless they are necessary to sustain or protect life or to conduct minimum basic operations, offering options to work remotely as much as possible.

- Cease all public and private gatherings of any number of people who are not part of a single household.
- Suspend all in-person activities that are not necessary to sustain or protect life.
- Limiting travel to the distance and time it takes to commute to and from work if required to work in-person, or the distance and time it takes to secure necessary household and medical supplies or treatment.
- Allowable exceptions:
 - *All White Earth Reservation Business Committee employees previously identified as essential who are unable to work remotely. Nothing limits employees from being reclassified.*
 - *Engaging in outdoor activities so long as social distancing guidelines are strictly followed.*
 - *Performing work as an essential employee, an employee conducting minimum basic operations for their employer, and/or performing necessary tribal government functions, working remotely whenever available.*
 - *Completing tasks necessary to their health and safety, as well as the health and safety of their family, household members, and pets. Examples include, but are not limited to: securing medication, seeking necessary medical intervention, emergency medical care, collecting traditional medicines, and attending traditional ceremonies so long as social distancing guidelines are strictly followed.*
 - *Obtaining necessary services and supplies for themselves, their family, household members, pets, and their vehicles, attempting to secure supplies via delivery if possible. Examples include, but are not limited to: purchasing groceries, take-out food, filling vehicles with gasoline, obtaining medical supplies or other products needed to maintain the safety, sanitation, and basic operation of their own homes.*
 - *Any other allowable exceptions recognized by the White Earth RBC by subsequent resolution*

WHEREAS, the White Earth RBC will continually evaluate the need for this resolution with the advice and guidance from the White Earth Emergency Management Team, or until such time that the emergency is terminated, now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the White Earth Reservation Business Committee hereby orders that all individuals within the exterior boundaries of the White Earth Reservation remain in their places of residence, and only leave in the limited circumstances as outlined above, until further notice; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the White Earth Public Safety Division, White Earth Conservation, and any other tribal, state and/or federal law enforcement agency are authorized to enforce this resolution within the exterior boundaries of the White Earth Reservation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that any individual who willfully violates the restrictions in this resolution shall be subject to the civil jurisdiction of the White Earth Reservation Business Committee as to disregard the directive will be viewed as conduct that threatens and has a direct effect on the political integrity, the economic security, the health, and the welfare of the White Earth Nation and its tribal members; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that any individual who willfully violates the restrictions in this resolution shall be subject to penalties of the State of Minnesota for violating any Executive Order from Governor Walz which may include the same or similar restrictions, and any other remedies that may be just and necessary considering the circumstances.

We do hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was adopted by a vote of _____ for, _____ against, _____ silent, a quorum being present at a special meeting of the White Earth Reservation Business Committee held on _____, 2020 in _____, Minnesota.

Michael A. Fairbanks, Chairman

Leonard Alan Roy, Secretary/Treasurer