

RECEIVED

MAY 02 1985

Resolution No. 85-68

FORT APACHE INDIAN
AGENCY
WATERLOO, ARIZ.

RESOLUTION OF THE
WHITE MOUNTAIN APACHE TRIBE OF THE
FORT APACHE INDIAN RESERVATION

- WHEREAS, Ann Louise Willie, an enrolled member of the White Mountain Apache Tribe, is the present reigning Miss Indian America; and
- WHEREAS, the Miss Indian America Board of Directors, on April 13, 1985, requested Ann Louise to resign her position as Miss Indian America and surrender her crown based upon her purported non-compliance with alleged guidelines of the Board of Directors; and
- WHEREAS, the Tribal Council has determined through its own investigation of the facts surrounding the Board's request that Ann Louise resign, that the charges lack any basis in fact, that ill-defined, vague or non-existent guidelines exist for Miss Indian America, that certain officials constituting the Board of Directors for the pageant have been negligent in failing to provide Miss Indian America with adequate housing and scheduling and have otherwise been derelict in their duty due to their own personal problems; and
- WHEREAS, the Tribal Council has also been advised that not all of the members of the Board of Directors have been fully informed regarding the circumstances surrounding the request that Ann Louise resign; and
- WHEREAS, the pageant has a significant impact on Indian people in that it represents outstanding young Indian women who, while preserving their Indian culture, have prepared themselves to succeed in the non-Indian society with the pride, dignity, self-esteem, and strength of their own culture; and
- WHEREAS, the White Mountain Apache Tribe has a significant interest in the pageant as at least one prior Miss Indian America, as well as several finalists in the pageant, have come from the White Mountain Apache Tribe; and
- WHEREAS, the White Mountain Apache Tribe hereby recognizes and commends the Indian and non-Indian businesses of the state of North Dakota for their support and sponsorship of the pageant and desire to see the pageant perpetuated with dignity and fairness to all of the participants; and

WHEREAS, the Tribal Council concludes that Ann Louise Willie was not afforded due process or fairness or given the opportunity to respond adequately prior to the Board of Directors requesting that she resign and that she has committed no violation, but has performed her duties most successfully in the eyes of the public, whom she has visited and addressed during her reign; and

WHEREAS, the Tribal Council further concludes that legal action should be taken if necessary, in order to assist Ann Louise Willie in her decision to refuse to give up the crown or resign as Miss Indian America.

BE IT RESOLVED by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe that it hereby gives its unanimous support to Miss Ann Louise Willie, Miss Indian America of 1985, in her decision to refuse to resign as Miss Indian America.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Tribal Council that it hereby deplores the method and unprofessional conduct of some of the members of the Board of Directors who have allowed personal problems to interfere with the responsibilities of their office and by so doing, have caused unfair injury and embarrassment to Miss Ann Louise Willie and to the pageant itself.

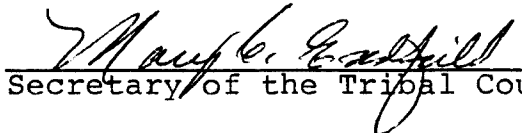
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Tribal Council that it urges the United Tribes of North Dakota Development Corporation to assist Ann Louise Willie in her decision and efforts to retain her crown and that the Miss Indian America Board of Directors reinstate Ann Louise for the remainder of her term and take steps to revitalize the pageant and promulgate regulations or guidelines which would be fair to future participants in order to avoid a repetition of this unfortunate incident.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Tribal Council that it hereby sets aside the sum of \$1,000.00 as and for attorney's fees in the event that Miss Ann Louise Willie requires the services of an attorney to insure that she be afforded proper due process and fairness in her efforts to retain her crown, and that said sum shall be available in the office of the Chairman, or in his absence, the Vice Chairman upon her request.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Tribal Council that it hereby directs that a copy of this resolution be sent immediately to the Miss Indian America Board of Directors, as well as the United Tribes of North Dakota Development Corporation with a request that the United Tribes utilize their good offices to rectify the very unfortunate injury suffered by Miss Ann Louise Willie.

The foregoing resolution was on April 17, 1985, duly adopted by a vote of 10 for and 0 against by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe, pursuant to authority vested in it by Article V, Section 1 () of the Amended Constitution and Bylaws of the Tribe, ratified by the Tribe June 27, 1958, and approved by the Secretary of the Interior on May 29, 1958, pursuant to Section 16 of the Act of June 18, 1934 (48 Stat. 984)


Chairman of the Tribal Council


Secretary of the Tribal Council

Resolution No. 85-68