

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

- WHEREAS, the murder of Jimmie Altaha and criticism from the Altaha family and others, in respect to the quality and speed of the criminal investigation of suspects of the crime was the basis for a previous tribal council resolution requesting that the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Bureau of Indian Affairs Law Enforcement expedite the investigation and assign additional criminal investigators and forensic experts to bring the wrong doers to justice; and
- WHEREAS, the Tribal Council is again confronted with the situation which calls for action on the part of the Council to keep the peace on the reservation, to protect all persons concerned and to insure that the investigation of the crime will continue unhampered; and
- WHEREAS, the Altaha family has come before the Council this date with a petition with over 400 signatures demanding that Varnell Gatewood, Sr. and Orita Altaha be placed on administrative leave without pay from tribal employment for their alleged involvement in the murder case of the late Jimmie Altaha; and
- WHEREAS, the Tribal Council has been advised by the Tribal Attorney in respect to the presumption of innocence, requirements of due process, and the application of the Indian Civil Rights Act and the personnel code in this matter; and
- WHEREAS, in consideration of that advice and the overall obligation and responsibility of the Tribal Council to maintain peace and tranquility on the reservation and to take such action as is necessary to insure the safety of all concerned in the criminal investigation, and further to insure the unhampered and unobstructed investigation of the crime, the Council concludes that authority should be delegated to the Tribal Chairman to take whatever steps he deems necessary as the Chief Executive Officer of the Tribe to insure the foregoing.

Resolution No. 11-91-293

BE IT RESOLVED by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe that it hereby delegates to Tribal Chairman Ronnie Lupe, authority to take whatever action is necessary regarding Varnell Gatewood, Sr. and Orita Altaha and any other person or party in respect to the ongoing investigation of the Jimmie Altaha murder to insure the safety of all concerned, the integrity of the criminal investigation, and the safety and tranquility of the reservation until such time as persons responsible for the crime are brought to justice by the appropriate law enforcement officials.

The foregoing resolution was on November 06, 1991, duly adopted by a vote of ten for and zero against by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe, pursuant to authority vested in it by Article V, Section 1 (i) 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).



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Chairman of the Tribal Council



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Secretary of the Tribal Council

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FORT APACHE INDIAN AGENCY  
WHITERIVER, ARIZONA