

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

- WHEREAS**, previous resolutions adopted by the Tribal Council recognize the cultural, economic, and educational importance of the Fort Apache Historic District, which was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1976; and
- WHEREAS**, Fort Apache, including all buildings and grounds in the area, is held in trust by the United States for the benefit of the Tribe, subject to the use by the Department of Interior for administrative and school purposes; and
- WHEREAS**, in 1993, the Tribe adopted a Master Plan for Fort Apache that identified the Historic District as an area with high potential for economic development and cultural preservation; and
- WHEREAS**, co-occupancy at Fort Apache by the Theodore Roosevelt BIA Grant School, the Tribe's Cultural Resources, Tourism, and Historic Preservation programs, coupled with the construction of the White Mountain Apache Museum and Cultural Education facility, has created a situation whereby the demand for space and use at the Fort is high; and
- WHEREAS**, the buildings and grounds at Fort Apache remain under the control and responsibility of the Department of Interior; and
- WHEREAS**, the buildings and grounds at Fort Apache have been allowed to deteriorate significantly while under the control of the Department; and
- WHEREAS**, the Tribe has, in previous resolutions, requested that the buildings be formally transferred to the Tribe so that its Master Plan can be implemented; and
- WHEREAS**, the Tribe has qualified its request for control over the buildings with the requirement that the Department repair all buildings and grounds of Fort Apache that have been damaged by the Department's neglect while under the Department's control; and
- WHEREAS**, the Tribe has put the Department on notice that litigation is an option if the Department fails to fulfill its responsibility to repair the Tribe's damaged trust assets at Fort Apache; and

WHEREAS, the Department and the Tribe agree that there is information lacking regarding the current state of the buildings, and what is needed to bring the buildings up to "code," "code" meaning the standards promulgated by the Secretary of Interior for historic preservation, construction and restoration; and

WHEREAS, the Tribe has been notified by BIA's Economic Development Program that end-of-the-fiscal-year monies are available to fund a study of the current state of the buildings, and what will be required to bring the buildings up to code and repair damage caused by the Department's neglect of the buildings and grounds; and

WHEREAS, while the Tribe has estimated that the costs of doing a comprehensive study of Fort Apache may approach \$300,000.00, and the Department has informed the Tribe that only \$145,000.00 is available, the Tribe and the Department believe that significant information critical to the assessment of Fort Apache can be obtained for \$145,000.00, especially with regard to the current state of the buildings and what is needed to bring the buildings up to code; and

WHEREAS, the Department has informed the Tribe that a Tribal Council resolution is required to support the Tribe's application for funds from the Department's Economic Development Program to assess Fort Apache.

BE IT RESOLVED by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe that it hereby directs the Tribal Chairman, or, in his absence the Tribal Vice Chairman, to secure approximately \$145,000.00 from the Department's Indian Economic Development Grant Program for the assessment of the repair needs at the grounds and buildings of the Fort Apache Historic District.

The foregoing resolution was on September 30, 1996, duly adopted by a vote of nine for and zero against by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe, pursuant to authority vested in it by Article IV, Section 1 (a), (b), (c), (g), (h), (i), (j), and (t) of the Constitution of the Tribe, ratified by the Tribe September 30, 1993, and approved by the Secretary of the Interior on November 12, 1993, pursuant to Section 16 of the Act of June 18, 1934 (48 Stat. 984).


Chairman of the Tribal Council


Secretary of the Tribal Council