



WHITE MOUNTAIN APACHE TRIBE

A Sovereign Tribal Nation

(Approving John Hopkins University Center for American Indian Health to Pursue Funding to Conduct Health Research to Address the COVID-19 Virus within the Reservation)

WHEREAS, The Constitution of the White Mountain Apache Tribe (“Tribe”) of the Fort Apache Indian Reservation provides, at Article IV, Section 1(a) that the Tribal Council (“Council”) shall exercise the power, “To represent the Tribe and act in all matters that concern the welfare of the Tribe, and to make decisions not inconsistent with or contrary to this constitution”; and

WHEREAS, The novel Coronavirus (“COVID-19”) has created a worldwide pandemic, infecting hundreds of thousands of people and causing tens of thousands of deaths; and

WHEREAS, The Tribe and Johns Hopkins University’s Center for American Indian Health (“JHU”) have a long history of producing evidence-based preventions and proving effective interventions to address infectious diseases that occur at higher rates among the White Mountain Apache and other Native American populations; and

WHEREAS, JHU wishes to pursue further epidemiological evidence to better understand how COVID-19 disease is spreading among Native American populations; and examine the effectiveness of new therapies to treat COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, JHU, this day, requests permission from the Tribe to pursue funding opportunities from multiple sources to understand how the COVID-19 virus behaves, to control its spread, and to reduce the severity of COVID-19 impact within the Tribe’s population; and

WHEREAS, The funding Johns Hopkins will seek is to address the COVID-19 virus with the White Mountain Apache Tribe would support the following activities:

- 1) Conduct surveillance for COVID-19 to characterize the clinical course, identify important risk and protective factors for disease; and determine patterns of transmission and the number of people who have been infected, recovered or carry the disease;
- 2) Identify and evaluate potential treatment and prevention strategies that may include anti-viral therapies, treatment with purified plasma from those who have recovered from the disease, and new vaccines to prevent or reduce the disease; and
- 3) Develop understanding and address the mental health and stress-related effects of the pandemic on White Mountain Apache people; and

WHEREAS, The Council has reviewed JHU's request, and finds that approving it to seek funding to research COVID-19 transmission, prevention and treatment on the Reservation is in the best interests of the Tribe and its members.

BE IT RESOLVED by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe that it hereby approves

Johns Hopkins Center for American Indian Health to pursue funding opportunities to conduct health research to reduce the spread and severity of COVID-19 with the White Mountain Apache community and generate knowledge to help address this worldwide pandemic.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe that it hereby directs that in the event this Resolution directly conflicts with the Tribal Constitution, Tribal Ordinances, or any material facts concerning the issues presented are later found to be false, this Resolution shall be deemed null and void and have no legal effect.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe that it hereby directs that in the event that this Resolution conflicts with a prior Resolution or Policy, this Resolution shall supersede and govern over the conflicting subject matter.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe that the Chairwoman, or in her absence, the Vice-Chairman, is hereby authorized to execute any and all documents necessary to effectuate the intent of this Resolution.

The foregoing resolution was on **MARCH 31, 2020** duly adopted by a vote of **ELEVEN** for, **ZERO** against, and **ZERO** abstentions by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe, pursuant to authority vested in it under the enumerated powers listed in Article IV, Section 1 of the WMAT Constitution, so ratified on September 30, 1993, and federally recognized pursuant to Section 16 of the Indian Reorganization Act of June 18, 1934 (48 Stat. 984).

 03/31/2020  3/31/2020
Gwendena Lee-Gatewood, Chairwoman Date Doreen T. Numkena, Tribal Secretary Date