



WHITE MOUNTAIN APACHE TRIBE

A Sovereign Tribal Nation

(Approving burial assistance payments for Tribal members
due to the COVID-19 Pandemic)

- 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 manners that concern the welfare of the Tribe, and to make decisions not inconsistent with or contrary to this constitution,”; and
- WHEREAS,** The World Health Organization declared a Public Health Emergency of International Concern regarding COVID-19 on January 30, 2020. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services declared a Public Health Emergency related to COVID-19 on January 31, 2020. The Tribe issued an Emergency Declaration due to COVID-19 on March 12, 2020; and
- WHEREAS,** The Tribe has a total of 1,571 positive COVID-19 cases as of June 24, 2020 with nineteen confirmed deaths; and
- WHEREAS,** The COVID-19 pandemic has created an economic hardship on the Fort Apache Indian Reservation (“Reservation”) and across the country, impacting all aspects of life, including the availability of jobs, food, transportation, medical care, and other necessities to the Tribe’s members; and
- WHEREAS,** The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (“CARES Act”) provided funding to tribal governments to combat the COVID-19 pandemic; and
- WHEREAS,** The Tribe has received \$47.5 million pursuant to Section 601(d)(1) of the CARES Act Tribal Relief Fund to cover necessary, unbudgeted expenditures resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic, in accordance with guidance issued by the U.S. Department of the Treasury; and
- WHEREAS,** The Department of the Treasury, in its “Coronavirus Relief Fund Frequently Asked Questions Updated as of May 28, 2020,” authorizes payments to assist individuals with unforeseen costs for funerals if those expenses are determined by the government to be necessary; and
- WHEREAS,** The Tribal Council finds that it is a necessary expenditure and in the best interest of the Tribe to provide burial assistance to Tribal members during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Resolution No. 06-2020-140

BE IT RESOLVED by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe that it hereby approves a payment of \$2,500.00 for the funeral expenses of a Tribal member affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, up until December 30, 2020 in compliance with the requirements of the CARES Act Tribal Relief Fund. Each payment will be made directly to the respective funeral home.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe that it hereby directs the Tribal Treasurer to ensure the payments are made from the CARES Act funding.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe that it hereby re-affirms Resolution No. 03-2020-69, which implemented temporary restrictions on funeral arrangements and services, including but not limited to: (1) the prohibition on wakes, and (2) the allowance of graveside services lasting no longer than one hour with ten people or less in attendance. These burial restrictions shall remain in place during the Tribe's 57-Hour Lockdown and Shelter-in-Place Order.

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 June 24, 2020 duly adopted by a vote of TEN 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).

 06/25/2020  6/25/2020
Gwendena Lee-Gatewood, Chairwoman Date Doreen T. Numkena, Tribal Secretary Date