



WHITE MOUNTAIN APACHE TRIBE

A Sovereign Tribal Nation

(Adopting Emergency Measures as Recommended by the Tribal Emergency Operations Center)

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

WHEREAS, The Tribe is now faced with the challenges presented by the uncontrolled spread of COVID-19 and protecting the Reservation and its residents with limited resources; and

WHEREAS, Indian Health Service’s Whiteriver Service Unit (“IHSWRSU”) provides healthcare to over 15,000 residents of the Fort Apache Indian Reservation (“Reservation”), a rural location with limited access to medical care; and

WHEREAS, The Tribal Emergency Operations Center (EOC), this day, recommended two emergency measures to the Council, including:

- Requesting that I.H.S. restrict deployments of their commission corps; and
- Continuing to protect “Protected Health Information” under the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996.

WHEREAS, The Council has reviewed the recommendations provided by the EOC and finds that implementing them will help the Tribe prevent the spread and mitigate the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on the Reservation, while also making wise use of the Tribe’s limited resources, and 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 the following emergency measures are hereby adopted:

1. **Indian Health Service Commission Corps.** The Tribe hereby requests that I.H.S. restrict deployments of commission corps personnel currently assigned to the Whiteriver Service Unite outside of the Reservation for the duration of the COVID-19 pandemic; and



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2. **HIPAA.** The Tribe instructs all Tribal programs and departments to maintain confidentiality of Protected Health Information as required by HIPAA.

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).

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