



WHITE MOUNTAIN APACHE TRIBE
A Sovereign Tribal Nation

(Approving Burial Assistance Payments for Casualties of COVID-19)

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, As of June 1, 2020, a total of 769 positive COVID-19 diagnoses have been made on the Fort Apache Indian Reservation (“Reservation”), with seven confirmed deaths; and

WHEREAS, The COVID-19 pandemic has impacted all aspects of life on the Reservation and across the country, 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 4, 2020,” authorizes payments for COVID-19-related burial assistance 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 for COVID-19-related deaths to Tribal members.

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 where the cause of death is due to COVID-19, up until December 30, 2020 in compliance with the requirements of the CARES Act Tribal

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Relief Fund. Each payment will be made directly to the respective funeral home, with the exception that this payment will be made directly to the next-of-kin for COVID-19-related funeral expenses previously incurred between March 1, 2020 and June 2, 2020.

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 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 2, 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).

	
Gwendena Lee-Gatewood, Chairwoman	Doreen T. Numkena, Tribal Secretary
<u>6/8/2020</u>	<u>6/8/2020</u>
Date	Date