



WHITE MOUNTAIN APACHE TRIBE

A Sovereign Tribal Nation

(Authorizing Indian Health Service Division of Environmental Health Services Injury Prevention Staff to Conduct the Gun Safety Community Survey and Pilot Project)

- 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
- WHEREAS,** American Indian/Alaskan Native (“AI/AN”) communities are at higher risk for self-directed violence (“SDV”); and
- WHEREAS,** Among AI/AN youth, 31% of SDV is attributable to guns; and
- WHEREAS,** For gun-related injury deaths among youth in Arizona in 2020, the number one risk factor was access to the firearm (100%); and
- WHEREAS,** Between years 2019 – 2020, there was a 41% increase in the gun-related injury death rate in Arizona; and
- WHEREAS,** Gathering data on the community perspective on gun safety provides vital information to public health and safety programs operating on the Fort Apache Indian Reservation; and
- WHEREAS,** Through the Firearm Safe Storage Pilot Project, Phoenix Area Indian Health Service Injury Prevention Program (“Pilot Project”), gun safes will be provided to Reservation homes, directly addressing the number one risk factor for gun-related injury and death provides data for future funding and continuation of the program; and
- WHEREAS,** The Council has reviewed the propose Pilot Project and finds that authorizing Indian Health Service to conduct it in cooperation with the White Mountain Apache Police and White Mountain Apache Game and Fish departments could prevent some gun violence on the Reservation, will contribute to our knowledge about violence prevention, 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 it hereby authorizes the Division of Environmental Health Services Injury Prevention staff along with partner tribal programs to administer a community survey and implement a pilot project using gun cabinets as an intervention method.

Resolution No. 09-2022-233

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 Chairman, or in his 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 **SEPTEMBER 14, 2022** duly adopted by a vote of **NINE** 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 November 10, 2021, and federally recognized pursuant to Section 16 of the Indian Reorganization Act of June 18, 1934 (48 Stat. 984).

Kasey Velasquez 9-21-22
Kasey Velasquez, Chairman Date
White Mountain Apache Tribe

Vaneya Johnson 9/22/22
Vaneya Johnson, Tribal Secretary Date