



Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe
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2023-RES-030

APPROVAL OF THE RE-ESTABLISHMENT OF THE CONSTITUTION COMMITTEE AND ESTABLISHMENT OF A CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM WORKING GROUP

WHEREAS, the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe (“Tribe”) is a federally-recognized Indian tribe with a duly-enacted Constitution; and

WHEREAS, the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal Council (“Tribal Council”), the governing body of the Tribe, deems it essential under Article VI, § 2.A. of the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal Constitution (“Constitution”) to promote and protect the political integrity, economic security and general welfare of the Tribe and members of the Tribe; and

WHEREAS, the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe (“Tribe”), is a federally recognized Indian Tribe with duly-enacted Constitution and the governing body of the Tribe is known as the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal Council (“Tribal Council”); and

WHEREAS, the Tribal Council, deems it essential under Article VI, § 2.A of the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal Constitution (“Constitution”) to promote and protect the health, peace, morals, education, political integrity, economic security and general welfare of the Tribe and members of the Tribe; and

WHEREAS, the Tribal Council acknowledges that the Tribal Constitution has been in effect since September 28, 2004, and approved by 2/3 of the tribal membership present and voting in favor; and

WHEREAS, the Tribal Council recognizes that important and invaluable work was done by the Tribal members to research, draft, finalize and approve the Constitution and that such members comprised a Constitution Committee for these purposes; and

WHEREAS, the Tribal Council finds that there exists a need to closely review the Constitution to determine if amendments are needed to better serve the Tribal community and to ensure consistency with existing Tribal law; and

WHEREAS, this effort to implement and evaluate the need for changes to the Constitution is to be known as “Constitutional Reform” and any such amendments would require an approval process as mandated in Article VII of the Constitution; and

WHEREAS, the Tribal Council desires to invite the tribal community to participate in the work required for Constitutional Reform and thereby provide invaluable input, analysis, and feedback on any proposed changes; and

WHEREAS, the Tribal Council desires to re-establish the Constitution Committee for the purposes of overseeing the amendment approval process and presentation to the Tribal membership, and

WHEREAS, the Tribal Council desires to establish a Constitutional Reform Working Group comprised of the Chairman, Tribal Council liaison(s), Tribal members, legal counsel and consultants to immediately commence work on the review and analysis of the Constitution and to present a working document to the Constitution Committee and Tribal Council; and

WHEREAS, the Tribal Council requests that this Constitutional Reform occur promptly, and that the proposed Constitutional amendment be presented to the Tribal Council and Constitutional Committee for review and subsequently to the tribal community for approval within one (1) year of the date of this Resolution unless such timeframe is extended by the Tribal Council due to extenuating circumstances or delays.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Tribal Council hereby approves the (1) re-establishment of the Constitution Committee, and (2) establishment of the Constitutional Reform Working Group.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the Tribal Council hereby declares that the proposed Constitutional amendment be presented to the Tribal Council and Constitutional Committee for review and subsequently to the tribal community for approval within one (1) year of the date of this Resolution unless such timeframe is extended by the Tribal Council due to extenuating circumstances or delays.

All resolutions or parts of resolutions inconsistent with this resolution are repealed. This resolution is effective immediately and shall continue pursuant to the authority vested in the Tribal Council pursuant to Article VI, §§ 2.A. and D. of the Constitution.

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CERTIFICATION

We, the undersigned Chairperson and Secretary of the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal Council, do hereby certify that the Tribal Council is composed of 13 members of whom 10, constituting a quorum were present at a regular meeting thereof, duly called, noticed, convened, and held on the 12th day of April, 2023 and that the foregoing resolution was duly adopted by the affirmative vote of 9 members, with 0 opposing, and with 0 not voting.

DATED this 12th day of April 2023.



Brian Weeden, Chairman
Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal Council

ATTEST:



Cassie Jackson, Secretary
Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal Council