



Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe
483 Great Neck Rd So. Mashpee, MA 02649
Phone (508) 477-0208 * Fax (508) 477-1218

TRIBAL COUNCIL RESOLUTION 2023-RES-040

EMERGENCY APPROVAL RAISING OF THE CHIEF " SÔTYUM"

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

WHEREAS, Article VI, Section 2.A., of the Constitution provides that the Tribal Council is empowered to protect the health, peace, morals, education, political integrity, economic security, and general welfare of the Tribe and its members; and

WHEREAS, Article VI, Section 1.A., "Tribal Council" "The Medicine Man and Tribal Chief, shall be selected by the general membership according to Tribal customs and tradition and acknowledged by resolution as such by all elected Tribal Council members prior to taking their respective seat on the Tribal Council"

WHEREAS, The Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe and Tribal Council believe that our traditional and cultural beliefs are the foundation of our community, and shall always be a priority and respected at all times; and

WHEREAS, On June 16, 2022 Chief Vernon "Silent Drum" Lopez resigned from his position as Chief of the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe on his birthday at the age of one-hundred; and

WHEREAS, The "Raising of the Chief" Ceremony shall take place on May 6, 2023 at the Sacred Circle down fifty-five acres or the "ceremonial circle"; and

WHEREAS, All General Membership of the Tribe ages 18 and over will have the opportunity to participate in the ceremony and stand behind the candidate they wish to support for the position; and

WHEREAS, Everyone who wishes to participate in the ceremony has the right to nominate any candidate they feel is qualified for the position. Each community member will stand behind the person they support and the candidate with the majority of the memberships support will be selected as the next Sôtyum "Chief" of the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, That the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal Council affirms the date of this ceremony to take place on Saturday, May 6, 2023 with a sunrise ceremony at South Cape Beach followed by the raising ceremony taking place at the "Sacred Circle" behind the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe's Community and Government Center, located at 483 Great Neck Rd South Mashpee, Massachusetts 02649 from 10am-12 noon followed by a potluck feast; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, That the Tribal Council will affirm by resolution the candidate selected according to "Tribal Customs" Article VI, Section 1.A., of constitution and authorize the Chairperson of the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal Council to take any other actions necessary to carry out the intent of this Resolution.

Effective immediately and until revoked or modified by the Tribal Council, pursuant to the authority vested in the Tribal Council pursuant to Article VI, Section 2.A. All Resolutions or parts of Resolutions inconsistent with this Resolution are repealed.

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 8, constituting a quorum, were present at an emergency meeting thereof, duly called, noticed, convened, and held on the 26th day of April, 2023, and that the foregoing Resolution was duly adopted by the affirmative vote of 6 members, with 1 opposing, and 0 not voting.


DATED this 26TH, day of April, 2023.



Brian M. Weeden, Chairman

Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal Council

ATTEST:



Cassie D. Jackson, Secretary

Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal Council