



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

**TRIBAL COUNCIL RESOLUTION
2023-RES-096**

**MASHPEE WAMPANOAG TRIBAL COUNCIL DECLARATION OF
A STATE OF EMERGENCY DUE TO THE HOMELESSNESS
CRISIS**

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, and is empowered, under Article VI, §2.A. of the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal Constitution to promote and protect the health and general welfare of the members of the Tribe; *and*,

WHEREAS, the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe is deeply concerned about the escalating issue of homelessness among its tribal members, which has been exacerbated by the post-COVID-19 increase in market housing sales and the impact of short-term rental businesses, further diminishing seasonal and long-term rental availability, and

WHEREAS, the Town of Mashpee is in the process of updating its “Housing Production Plan,” and the Cape Cod Commission, the regional planning body, is also engaged in the development of a regional Housing Production Plan, which the Tribe deems critical to include and implement Tribal preferences, and

WHEREAS, it has come to the attention of the Tribe’s Housing Commission, who voted unanimously at their September 14th, 2023 meeting, that the Tribe must declare a state of emergency on homelessness to address the pressing needs of our homeless tribal members, and

WHEREAS, the Tribal Council acknowledges that since 2019, the MWT Housing Department has been consistently supporting an average of 60-70 homeless tribal members per month, illustrating the urgency of this crisis, and

WHEREAS, the Tribal Council recognizes that it is not included in the Census data charts, and while the 2014 Notice of Funding Announcement (NOFA) directs applicants to National Census information when determining the percentage of low to moderate

income (LMI) beneficiaries for proposed projects, the Tribe is not included in the Tribal-specific data on the U.S. Census website, and

WHEREAS, alternative data sources, such as the American Community Survey's 5-Year Survey, have been used to ascertain the percentage of LMI beneficiaries, revealing that 88% of the American Indian and Alaska Native (AIAN) households in Mashpee Town were below the LMI limit based on the 2014 Median Household Income, which is critical for supporting low to moderate income tribal members,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Tribal Council desires to:

1. Formally declare a state of emergency due to the ongoing and pervasive homelessness crisis among tribal members, recognizing the urgent need to address this crisis.
2. Support and actively participate in the Town of Mashpee's efforts to update its Housing Production Plan and requests that Tribal preferences be included to ensure that the housing needs of tribal members are adequately addressed.
3. Support and actively participate in the Cape Cod Commission's development of a regional Housing Production Plan, advocating for the inclusion of Tribal preferences to address the housing challenges faced by tribal members within the broader region.
4. Encourage the Tribe's Housing Department to continue its efforts to provide assistance and support to homeless tribal members, working collaboratively with appropriate local, regional, State, Federal agencies and organizations to find viable solutions to address the Tribal homelessness.
5. Seek additional funding and resources to address the homelessness crisis within the Tribe and explore creative and collaborative opportunities for housing development and support services.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the Chairman of the Tribal Council, or in his absence or unavailability, other Tribal Council Officer, is hereby authorized to take all necessary action to enforce this Declaration and address the State of Emergency or to take such other actions as are reasonable and necessary in furtherance of the execution or performance of this Resolution and shall remain in effect until such time as the Tribal Council determines that the homelessness crisis among tribal members is adequately addressed and remedied.

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 of the Constitution of the Mashpee Wampanoag. All resolutions or parts of resolutions inconsistent with this resolution are repealed.

CERTIFICATION

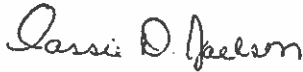
We, the undersigned Chairperson and Secretary of the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal Council do hereby certify that the Tribal Council is composed of 13 members of whom 11, constituting a quorum, were present at a meeting thereof, duly and regularly called, noticed, convened, and held on the 20th day of September 2023, and that the foregoing Resolution was duly adopted by the affirmative vote of 10 members, with 0 opposing, and with 0 not voting.

Dated this 20th day of September, 2023.



Brian M. Weeden, CHAIRMAN
Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal Council

ATTEST:



Cassie D. Jackson, SECRETARY
Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal Council