



Miami Tribe of Oklahoma

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Wednesday, March 18, 2020

For Immediate Release

**Douglas G. Lankford, Chief
Miami Tribe of Oklahoma**

The Miami Tribe of Oklahoma will temporarily close its two casinos, Prairie Sun Casino and Prairie Moon Casino, both located in Miami, Oklahoma, to reduce the potential spread of coronavirus (COVID-19). The casinos will close at midnight on Thursday, March 20th, and will remain closed through March 31st.

On Monday, March 16, 2020, through Resolution 20-12, the Miami Tribe declared a State of Emergency to address the ongoing coronavirus threat that applies to all who live, work on, and do business within the Tribe's territory.

The Business Committee for the Miami Tribe recognizes the significant threat this virus presents and urges Tribal Members and members of the community to adhere to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention ("CDC") current COVID-19 guidance related to precautions to mitigate and stop the spread of the virus.

"Our priority is the health and safety of our Tribal Members, our employees and our community. The Miami Tribe, along with the Peoria and Ottawa Tribes, are closing our casinos this week to protect our employees and the community during this critical time. We will remain vigilant and proactive during these coming weeks through communication, education and ongoing coordination with federal, state, local and tribal officials."

The Miami Tribe of Oklahoma will provide updates as appropriate.



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RESOLUTION 20-12

A RESOLUTION TO DECLARE A STATE OF EMERGENCY RELATED TO THE CORONAVIRUS OR COVID-19 PANDEMIC

WHEREAS, the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma (“Tribe”) is a duly organized and federally-recognized Indian Tribe under the Thomas-Rogers Oklahoma Indian Welfare Act of 1936, 49 Stat. 1967, and is governed by the terms of a Constitution and By-Laws originally approved by the Secretary of the Interior on August 16, 1939, and

WHEREAS, the Business Committee of the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma is authorized to enact Resolutions and act on behalf of the Miami Tribe under Article VI of the Constitution, and

WHEREAS, the Business Committee is authorized to take action to protect the health, well-being, and general welfare of the Tribe and its members and employees, and

WHEREAS, the Coronavirus or COVID-19, a serious respiratory illness that spreads from person-to-person, has been declared a pandemic by the World Health Organization and multiple active cases of the virus have been identified in Oklahoma, and

WHEREAS, the worldwide outbreak of COVID-19 and the effects of its person-to-person transmission throughout the United States, Oklahoma, and the Tribe’s territory, poses a significant threat to the safety, health, and security of tribal members and the Tribe’s community, as well as public facilities, including, but not limited to workplaces and tribal public buildings, and

WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (“CDC”) advises that COVID-19 poses a higher risk to elders and tribal members and employees with underlying health conditions, and that extra precautions should be implemented to prevent these higher risk populations from contracting the virus, and

WHEREAS, given the significant threat to Tribal Members, tribal employees, and the tribal community due to COVID-19, it is of vital importance that the Tribe be able to access any federal and state funds that are made available to Tribal governments to fight COVID-19, and

WHEREAS, it is the duty of the Business Committee to address the significant threat to Tribal Members and the tribal community posed by COVID-19 through proactive measures, education, and ongoing coordination with federal, state, local, and tribal officials.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma declares a State of Emergency to address the ongoing COVID-19 threat that applies to all who live, work on, and do business within the Tribe's territory. The State of Emergency shall be effective as of the date of this Resolution and will remain in effect until further notice of the Business Committee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Tribal Members and members of the tribal community should adhere to the CDC's current COVID-19 guidance related to precautions for high-risk populations, steps to prevent illness, what to do when sick, and common symptoms, among other topics. Consistent with CDC recommendations, Tribal Members and members of the tribal community should be diligent about washing hands regularly, disinfecting frequently used surfaces at home and work, and engaging in social distancing.

BE IT FURTHER AND FINALLY RESOLVED that the Business Committee will continue to closely monitor the status of the COVID-19 threat in coordination with federal, state, local, and tribal officials and will provide ongoing updates as appropriate.

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was passed at a Special Meeting of the elected Business Committee of the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma on the 16 of March _____ 2020 with a vote of 5 for, 0 against, and 0 abstaining.



Douglas G. Lankford, Chief

ATTEST: 

Donya Williams, Secretary/Treasurer