

Little River Band of Ottawa Indians

375 River Street
Manistee, MI 49660
(231) 723-8288

Resolution # 05-0216-81

*Statement of the Tribal Council of the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians Setting Forth
the Position on Tribal Culture and Tradition Regarding the Protection of Families and
Children*

WHEREAS, the status of the *Gaá Čhíng Ziibi Daáwaa Aníshinaábek* (Little River Band of Ottawa Indians) as a sovereign and Treaty-making power is confirmed in numerous treaties, from agreements with the initial colonial powers on this land, to various treaties with the United States; and

WHEREAS, the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians (Tribe) is descended from, and is the political successor to, the Grand River Ottawa Bands, signatories of the 1836 Treaty of Washington (7 Stat. 491) with the United States, as reaffirmed by federal law in P.L. 103-324, enacted in 1994; and

WHEREAS, the Tribe adopted a new Constitution, pursuant to a vote of the membership on May 27, 1998, which Constitution became effective upon its approval by the Assistant Secretary-Indian Affairs on July 10, 1998; and

WHEREAS, the Tribe adopted amendments to the Constitution on April 26, 2004, which became effective upon approval by the Assistant Secretary-Indian Affairs on May 13, 2004; and

WHEREAS, the Tribal Council is authorized under Article IV, Section 7(a) to provide for the public health, peace, morals, education and general welfare of the Little River Band and its members; and

WHEREAS, the Tribal Council has held as its highest responsibility the protection of the families of the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians and especially the children of the Band; and

WHEREAS, the Tribal Council has adopted the Juvenile Code and Children's Code which create the Binojeeuk Commission and entrusted to that entity the responsibility of protecting the children of the Tribe; and

WHEREAS, the Tribal Council has also held as one of its highest responsibility the integration of our history and our ways into all of our actions, our decisions, our discussions, and our processes; and

WHEREAS, the Tribal Council has created the Cultural Preservation Committee to identify and provide opportunities for the families and children of the Band to learn the language, the history, the traditions, and the culture as well as to participate in activities which integrate and act upon these traditions and cultures; and

WHEREAS, the Tribal Council has been advised of unrefuted testimony of blatant and criminal misrepresentations of our history, culture and traditions in Case No. 04-3508-FC, People v. Matthew R. Stratton; and

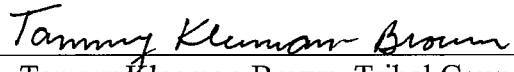
WHEREAS, the Tribal Council finds that these unforgivable actions call for the strongest response of the Tribe, to say, in no uncertain terms, that these actions are not traditional nor condoned by this Tribe or this community; and

NOW THEREFORE IT IS RESOLVED THAT the Tribal Council of the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians hereby condemns the actions that have taken place and rejects as having no credibility the allegations that child abuse has any part in the traditions and culture of the Ottawa peoples.

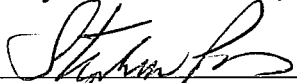
CERTIFICATE OF ADOPTION

I do hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly presented and adopted by the Tribal Council with 7 FOR, 1 AGAINST, 0 ABSTAINING, and 1 ABSENT, at a Regular Closed Session of the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians Tribal Council held on February 16, 2005, at the Little River Band's Conference Room in Manistee, Michigan, with a quorum being present for such vote.

Attest:



Tammy Kleeman-Brown, Tribal Councilor



Stephen Parsons, Council Speaker

Distribution: Council Records
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