

Little River Band of Ottawa Indians

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

Resolution # 05-1102-571

Communicating Tribal Council's Opinion Regarding Murals Depicting American Indian Likenesses

WHEREAS, the status of the *Gaá Čhíng Ziibi Daáwaa Anishinaábek* (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 Manistee Public Schools has requested an opinion of the Tribe regarding two murals that contain representations of American Indian likenesses; and

WHEREAS, the Tribal Council understands that neither mural contains representations involving Great Lakes Anishinaabe culture or traditions; and

WHEREAS, the Tribal Council has reviewed each mural to determine whether they contain appropriate depictions of American Indian culture and traditions.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Tribal Council determines that the mural depicting an "Iroquois prosperity dance" is not an accurate and/or appropriate representation of American Indian culture and tradition; and

The Tribal Council is not in a position to determine whether the one American Indian figure on the mural depicting a "frontier gathering scene" is accurate and/or appropriate. However, the Tribal Council understands that this depiction may be offensive to some Tribes or individuals.

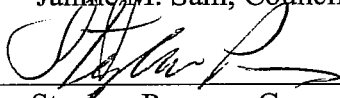
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that an original copy of this resolution will be provided to the Superintendent of the Manistee Public Schools for his information and reference.

CERTIFICATE OF ADOPTION

I do hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly presented and adopted by the Tribal Council with 7 FOR, 0 AGAINST, 0 ABSTAINING, 1 ABSENT, and 1 VACANT, at a Regular Session of the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians Tribal Council held on November 2, 2005, at the Little River Band's Dome Room in Manistee, Michigan, with a quorum being present for such vote.



Janine M. Sam, Council Recorder



Stephen Parsons, Council Speaker

Attest:

Distribution: Council Records
Tribal Ogema
Tribal Court