



**Little River Band of Ottawa Indians
Tribal Council**

2608 Government Center Drive
Manistee, MI 49660
(231) 723-8288

Resolution #17-0906-300

Approving Temporary Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Program of 2017

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 Tribe adopted amendments to the Constitution on July 11, 2016 which became effective upon approval by the Assistant Secretary-Indian Affairs on August 24, 2016; and

WHEREAS, the legislative powers of the Tribe are vested in the Tribal Council according to Article IV, Section 1 of the Constitution; and

WHEREAS, the Tribal Council is authorized by Article IV, Section 7(a)(1) and (2) to exercise the inherent powers of the Tribe by establishing laws through the enactment of ordinances and adoption of resolutions to govern the conduct of Tribal Members and others within the Tribe's jurisdiction and to promote, protect and provide for the public health, peace, morals, education and general welfare of the Tribe and its members; and

WHEREAS, the Tribal Council has identified a gap in the provision of services to persons affected by disasters, especially where federal, state and local programs are unable to meet the immediate needs of those persons, including basic food, clothing, shelter, and health care needs; and

WHEREAS, the Tribal Council has identified that as a result of long term federal policies, and personal economic needs of individuals, that members live throughout the United States, and the world; and

WHEREAS, the Tribal Council has identified that members, regardless of where they reside, in times of disaster, should be able to rely upon their government, the Little River Band of Ottawa, as they have historically relied upon each other, to provide assistance in times of natural disasters; and

WHEREAS, because the Tribal Council is aware of the immediate needs of members in the area devastated by Hurricane Harvey, and knowing that these immediate needs may not be adequately met by federal, state, local and non-profit organizations, the Tribal Council has identified that sufficient funds exist to address these immediate needs and has determined to create a temporary program until such time as a permanent program can be developed;

WHEREAS, the Tribal Council is aware that another hurricane is currently headed to the coast of Florida and that there may be other Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) declared disaster areas through the end of 2017.

NOW THEREFORE IT IS RESOLVED THAT the Tribal Council of the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians hereby creates the *Temporary Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Program of 2017* which is created for the benefit of members in the areas impacted by the devastation caused by Hurricane Harvey and future FEMA declared disaster areas for 2017. This program directs the following relief be made available to those members, as administered through the Members Assistance Program:

1. *Relief Funds*. The following level of relief funds shall be made available to members in the area impacted by the devastation caused by Hurricane Harvey and future FEMA declared disaster areas for 2017 on a one time basis only.

a. *Households*. For each household in which a Tribal member is present, the sum of \$5000.00 shall be available.

b. *Single Members*. For each single adult member, identified as an individual with no dependents or not part of a household, the sum of \$2500.00 shall be available.

2. *Accessibility*. A member who contacts, by phone, the Members Assistance Program and gives the information identified by the Members Assistance Program, shall be determined to have filed an application for Relief Funds. This information includes but is not limited to:

a. Name of applicant

b. Whether applying for Household or Single Member assistance, and name of all members of the household under a household application.

c. Social Security Number of the adult head of household in whose name the Relief Funds will be sent.

d. Address of the location to which the Relief Funds can be sent.

3. *Verification.* In order to protect tribal assets, the Members Assistance Department may create forms and certification documents to facilitate administering the Temporary Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Program of 2017. Every effort shall be made to assist impacted members in completing the forms and electronic signatures shall be acceptable.

4. *Funds.* The Members Assistance Program is directed to forward funds in a speedy and timely manner, and in a form in which the funds can be made most easily available to the member. Such forms may be a debit card or check sent overnight or other next day service, funds transfer, or other method.

5. *Reporting.* The Members Assistance Program is directed to report to the Tribal Council regarding the activities of this program and recommendations for development of a permanent program. A final report and recommendations shall be submitted to Tribal Council within 90 days of the end of the program.

6. *Conclusion of Program.* This program shall be concluded on December 31, 2017.

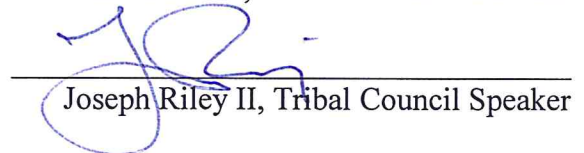
IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Accounting Department is directed to report to the Tribal Council, within 90 days, regarding how these funds are reported to federal, and if applicable, state, taxing agencies, whether the funds are taxable, if taxable the amount of potential tax, and a draft notice to be authorized by the Tribal Council to be sent to those members regarding the funds and their status as taxable income.

CERTIFICATE OF ADOPTION

I do hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly presented and adopted by the Tribal Council with 9 FOR, 0 AGAINST, 0 ABSTAINING, and 0 ABSENT, at a Regular Closed Session of the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians Tribal Council held on September 6, 2017 at the Government Center in Manistee, Michigan, with a quorum being present for such vote.



Sandra Lewis, Tribal Council Recorder



Joseph Riley II, Tribal Council Speaker

Attest:

Distribution: Council Records
Tribal Ogema
Members Assistance
Accounting Department