



**Little River Band of Ottawa Indians
Tribal Council**
2608 Government Center Drive
Manistee, MI 49660
(231) 723-8288

Resolution #18-0425-131

Resolution Declaring an Emergency Due to Opioid Epidemic

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

WHEREAS, the Midwest Alliance of Sovereign Tribes (MAST) by Resolution No. 01-18 declared an emergency due to the opioid epidemic, requesting tribal action and consultation with the United States Government to develop an action plan to address this critical peril; and

WHEREAS, the national opioid epidemic represents one of the great public health challenges of the modern era with American Indians/Alaskan Natives consistently having the highest drug overdose rate by race each year from 2008 to 2015; and

WHEREAS, the Indian Health Care system is chronically underfunded and Tribes lack the resources or access to resources to address the problem; and

WHEREAS, the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians Be Da Bin Behavioral Health Program sponsored an Opioid Overdose Prevention Strategies Training on March 5, 2018 and presented a regional symposium on the Opioid Epidemic on April 5, 2018; and

WHEREAS, the loss of Tribal citizens to this epidemic endangers our families and communities, it imperils the survival of our culture, and it creates generational trauma for years to come.

NOW THEREFORE IT IS RESOLVED, that the Tribal Council declares an emergency due to the opioid crisis and supports all efforts to consult with the United States Government on the development of an action plan to address this epidemic.

CERTIFICATE OF ADOPTION

I do hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly presented and adopted by the Tribal Council with 6 FOR, 0 AGAINST, 0 ABSTAINING, and 3 ABSENT, at a Regular Session of the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians Tribal Council held on April 25, 2018 at the Government Center in Manistee, Michigan, with a quorum being present for such vote.



Gary Di Piazza, Acting Council Recorder



Joseph Riley II, Tribal Council Speaker

Attest:

Distribution: Council Records
Tribal Ogema