



NATIONAL CONGRESS OF AMERICAN INDIANS

THE NATIONAL CONGRESS OF AMERICAN INDIANS

RESOLUTION #MSH-01-050

Title: A Resolution Affirming NCAI's Support for the Narragansett Indian Tribe's Efforts to Enter Into a Memorandum of Understanding with the State of Rhode Island and the Town of Charlestown Regarding Law Enforcement Arrangements

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WHEREAS, we, the members of the National Congress of American Indians of the United States, invoking the divine blessing of the Creator upon our efforts and purposes, in order to preserve for ourselves and our descendants the inherent sovereign rights of our Indian nations, rights secured under Indian treaties and agreements with the United States, and all other rights and benefits to which we are entitled under the laws and Constitution of the United States, to enlighten the public toward a better understanding of the Indian people, to preserve Indian cultural values, and otherwise promote the welfare of the Indian people, do hereby establish and submit the following resolution; and

WHEREAS, the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) was established in 1944 and is the oldest, largest, and most representative national American Indian and Alaska Native tribal government organization; and

WHEREAS, and under such laws as the Indian Law Enforcement Reform Act, P.L. 101-379, 25 U.S.C. 2801 et seq., the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), is responsible for providing, or for assisting in the provision of, law enforcement services in Indian Country; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act, P.L. 93-638, and grants from the Justice Department under its Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) grants, the Narragansett Indian Tribe has contracted law enforcement services with the BIA and entered into deputization agreement with the BIA to provide for efficient, effective, and cooperative law enforcement efforts in and around Indian Country in the State of Rhode Island; and

WHEREAS, for more than two years now the Narragansett Tribe has sought to enter into an agreement with State and Town of Charlestown officials to facilitate cooperation and mutual aid between the Tribe's public safety officers and public safety officers of the State and local government; and

WHEREAS, State and local officials have repeatedly declined the Tribe's requests to enter into such agreements and no formalized procedures are in place which facilitate cooperation and mutual aid between the Tribe's public safety department and State and local public safety departments, nor can the Tribe access Rhode Island's Law Enforcement Telecommunications System (RILETS), and other public safety radio frequencies which better ensures the safety and well being of all public safety officers by permitting access to critical criminal record data and other pertinent information; and

WHEREAS, without such public safety agreements in place, the health and safety of Tribal public safety officers, and the Tribal community they serve, are placed at risk; and

WHEREAS, other laws such as the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act (NAHASDA), require that Indian tribes enter into public safety agreements as a condition to expending affordable housing funds for low-income Indian families; and

WHEREAS, the federal government has a trust responsibility to protect the sovereignty of all federally recognized Indian Tribes and the well being of tribal members.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that NCAI does hereby request the Department of the Interior, the Department of Justice, and the Department of Housing and Urban Development to take all steps necessary to protect the sovereign status and safety of the Narragansett Indian Tribe, and its members, including, without limitation, investigating whether the Tribe's civil rights have been violated by acts or omissions of State and Town of Charlestown officials.

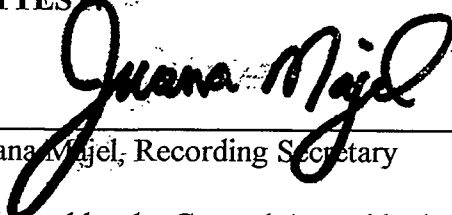
CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted at the 2001 Mid-Year Session of the National Congress of American Indians, held at Foxwoods Resort Casino in Mashantucket, Connecticut on May 13-16, 2001, with a quorum present.



Susan Masten, President

ATTEST



Juana Mijel, Recording Secretary

Adopted by the General Assembly during the 2001 Mid-Year Session of the National Congress of American Indians, held in Mashantucket, Connecticut on May 13-16, 2001.