



Kiowa Tribe

P.O. Box 369 · Carnegie, Oklahoma · 73015

Phone: (580) 654-2300

November 15, 2024

Steven Geronimo Hopkins
Kiowa Tribe KIC Coordinator
P.O. Box 369
Carnegie, OK 73015

**RE: PUBLIC RESPONSE TO FACEBOOK POSTING
REGARDING THE ALLEGED STATE OF EMERGENCY**

Dear Mr. Hopkins:

In recent Facebook posts dated November 7 and November 14, 2024, you assert that you are issuing a call for a State of Emergency “online action” on behalf of the Kiowa Indian Council. You also indicate your intent to present resolutions for formal passage by the Council during this future virtual meeting. It is incumbent upon the Chairman and the Speaker of the Legislature to clarify for the Kiowa people that the “comprehensive” and “sweeping action” you propose is wholly counter to the provisions of our Kiowa Constitution.

There are two types of KIC meetings recognized under the Constitution: per Article V - Kiowa Indian Council, Section 4(b), the Annual Meeting of the Council mandated for the first Saturday in April of each year may be complemented by Special Meetings of the Council. Special Meetings may be called by the request of a minimum of six Legislators or via a petition signed by four hundred Tribe members who are 18 years of age or older. *You have met neither of these conditions to invoke a Special Meeting.* There is no provision for the Coordinator to declare a State of Emergency under the Constitution or to convene a Special Meeting unilaterally, let alone a nebulous “online action.”

Per the oaths of office sworn by all elected and appointed officials to support and defend the Constitution of the Kiowa Tribe, neither the Executive Branch nor the Legislative Branch will recognize this rogue meeting proposed by the KIC Coordinator or any unconstitutional actions undertaken during its course. This does not mean that any group of Kiowas, the KIC Coordinator included, cannot come together for discussion. It simply means that all such informal gatherings are precisely that – informal – unless they fulfill the requirements and regulatory protocols explicitly established by the Kiowa Constitution. The Executive Branch and Legislature will honor all processes according to the two types of KIC meetings for which the same Constitution provides.

It is disquieting in the extreme that the Kiowa Indian Council Coordinator has either failed to familiarize himself with the supreme law of our Tribe or consciously elected to operate outside of it. The Coordinator has no authority under the Constitution to institute a “state of emergency.” The KIC Coordinator is a part-time job. The nature of the position – as delineated in Article V, Section 5 (c) of the Constitution – is to provide support for constitutionally compliant meetings (Annual and Special) by accepting proposed resolutions, publishing submitted resolutions consistent with organizational timelines, and submitting all approved resolutions to the Election Commission for electoral referendum.

In the interests of transparency and public awareness, the Executive and Legislative branches feel compelled to identify the misinformation underlying your declaration of a “State of Emergency,” the considerable falsities in your Facebook posts regarding the same matter, and the unconstitutionality of your stated plans. In its present iteration, your “State of Emergency” “online” gathering is unofficial, and any additional actions arising from it will be disregarded as illegitimate by the Executive Branch and Legislature.

Respectfully,



Lawrence SpottedBird
Chairman



Michael Primus
Speaker of the Legislature