



Kiowa Tribe

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Executive Branch

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Kiowa Tribal Chairman Impeachment Hearing Halted

CARNEGIE, Okla.-Today the Court of Indian Offenses for the Southern Plains Region issued an injunction relief stopping an impeachment hearing by the Kiowa Tribe legislature against the Chairman of the Tribe, Matthew M. Komalty.

The judge issued a Temporary Restraining Order due to health concerns about COVID-19 and due process. The executive branch believed upon credible sources that at least two of the legislators tested positive for the virus. The legislature would not provide evidence of negative testing.

Further, the Legislative branch only in the past two days released procedures for the hearing and sent subpoenas to executive branch staff. Today, minutes before the hearing, the legislature released the names of witnesses that were to testify against the Chairman.

Chairman Komalty said, "I have the utmost respect for the Kiowa people and the Kiowa Constitution. But, to proceed with the extraordinary act of impeachment requires extreme caution and care. The precedent being set will impact the Kiowa people for generations."

The judge explained and according to the temporary restraining order, the undersigned has placed calls to Plaintiffs' counsel Barry Brandon and Gary Pitchlynn, who has entered an appearance for Defendants in a previous case and is representing Defendants at the removal trial.

Upon inquiry, Plaintiffs' Counsel represents he is seeking an ex parte temporary restraining order and states that the Defendants have been served with a summons and the complaint.

Mr. Pitchlynn was contacted and acknowledged the service of the Complaint and Application on the Defendants. He was questioned as to whether he agrees that the Kiowa Constitution afford Chairman Komalty certain due process rights and he

answered in the affirmative. He stated that Chairman Komalty had been given notice of the date and time of the proceedings, but when asked if there are laws, rules or formally adopted procedures to govern his proceeding, he stated "there aren't any."