



Kiowa Tribe

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

Phone: (580) 654-6343 · Fax: (580) 654-8412

EXECUTIVE BRANCH

AN OPEN LETTER TO THE KIOWA PEOPLE

The Kiowa people entrusted me to serve them by electing me Chairman to serve along with Rhonda Ahhaitty as Vice Chairman. When we were elected was after several years of dysfunctional government and the adoption of a new Constitution which provided new guidelines for our governance as a people. Applying the Constitution was a new endeavor for all of us including the Legislature which took the place of our Business Committee under new rules. It has been a spirited time as the Branches of government began anew to work for the Kiowa people. One of the first things we accomplished was getting back the programs the tribe had lost the previous years. We got back our housing program after many years under the control of HUD and restored all programs under it. We established an IT department, Transportation Department, Social Services, Higher Education, Indian Child Welfare, Veterans, Reentry and Firefighter programs to better serve you.

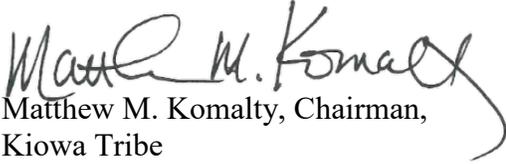
We were struck by the Covid-19 pandemic as everyone else in America. It affected our people greatly and we lost many tribal members. Thanks to hard work by many we were able to achieve funds from the Federal Government that allowed us to assist the tribal members with services that included Senior Wellness Center, transportation vans, Covid -19 centers in Lawton, Hobart and Anadarko, lump sum payments for all tribal members 18 and over, vaccination incentive payments and additional programs to assist with emergency needs caused by the pandemic.

Even during the period of the pandemic, we have been able to place in trust the Indian City property with future plans being worked on now to make the property a gem for the Kiowa Tribe. Property was purchased in Anadarko for new elder housing being developed now by your housing authority, a Covid Community Center was just completed that will serve the tribe for many years, new dance grounds were developed, property was purchased for outreach centers in the legislative districts and a new casino in Hobart was planned and is being built now in an agreement with the City of Hobart who provided the land without cost to you. The Tribe is now receiving more funds from the Casino and more programs to assist tribal members are available. Through funding from the federal government, we were able to make two cash payments to you totaling \$2700.00 and provide a \$1500.00 payment to those under 18 along with a \$500.00 gift card for clothing. Additionally, programs have been set up for all our people that are available through the Tribal website. One huge issue that confronted us was the lack of broadband services for tribal members and school age children. This has led to an agreement with Fujitsu to build out a permanent infrastructure for broadband not only for our people but Southwest Oklahoma. This will be accomplished through the Kiowa Communications Network. Once this is in place our people will never again be without internet services.

Many of you have been subjected to falsehoods and rumors about me during my term in office. That, it seems, is just a part of Kiowa politics. My focus has always been to assist our tribal members and especially our elders and children and I have strived to do this as best I was able. During the last few months my health has suffered as a result of being afflicted with an auto immune disorder. Because of this I was unable to be in my office and had to work remotely depending on my staff to carry out the programs and obligations to you. I want to thank the employees for all their hard work and going out of their way to work with me remotely. It has not been easy for them.

While I am overcoming my illness I still have a ways to go to be 100% again. Because of this my family and I have made the decision not to run for office again at this time. My thanks go out to the Kiowa people who

allowed me to have this opportunity to serve. I will continue to serve until the new Chairman is sworn into office and will provide to whoever succeeds me all the information they need to keep our Kiowa people moving forward. It is and has been an honor to serve our people. May God continue to Bless the Kiowa people now and forever.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Matthew M. Komalty". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping tail on the final letter.

Matthew M. Komalty, Chairman,
Kiowa Tribe