

Fort Belknap Indian Community

A RESOLUTION AMENDING FBIC RESOLUTIONS NO. 55-2020 AND 63-2020 TO REQUIRE INDIVIDUALS ON THE FORT BELKNAP INDIAN RESERVATION AND BUSINESS REPRESENTATIVES TO WEAR MASKS TO PREVENT THE SPREAD OF THE COVID-19 CORONAVIRUS TO PROTECT THE HEALTH AND SAFETY OF FORT BELKNAP INDIAN COMMUNITY MEMBERS AND RESIDENTS

WHEREAS, the Fort Belknap Indian Community Council is the governing body of the Gros Ventre and Assiniboine Tribes of the Fort Belknap Indian Community, Fort Belknap Indian Reservation, Montana, by the authority of the Constitution and By-Laws of the Fort Belknap Tribes approved on the 13 day of December 1935, and

WHEREAS, under the Constitution and By-Laws of the Fort Belknap Indian Community, the Community Council is charged with the duty of protecting the health, security and general welfare of the Fort Belknap Indian Community, and

WHEREAS, on March 16, 2020, the Fort Belknap Indian Community Council adopted Resolution 55- 2020 declaring a State of Emergency on the Fort Belknap Indian Reservation due to the extremely serious impacts of the COVID-19 coronavirus pandemic on the health and wellbeing of the members and residents of the Fort Belknap Indian Community and amended the same through FBIC Resolution No.63 -2020; and,

WHEREAS, the Fort Belknap Indian Community ("FBIC") Council continues to monitor the spread of the extremely dangerous COVID-19 coronavirus and the impact of the pandemic on the health, safety, and wellbeing of the Gros Ventre and Assiniboine members of the Fort Belknap Indian Community and its residents and is very concerned about the encroaching spread, getting closer to the Fort Belknap Indian Reservation; and,

WHEREAS, the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ("CDC") confirmed that a significant number of individuals who are infected remain asymptomatic and that as many as 25% of these individuals may contribute to transmission of the virus that causes COVID-19; and,

WHEREAS on April 3, 2020, the CDC recommended that members of the public should cover their noses and mouths with a cloth face covering to prevent inadvertently spreading COVID-19 while interacting with others outside their homes in public settings where other social distancing measures are difficult to maintain; and,

WHEREAS the FBIC Council has continuously encouraged individuals to wear masks, including issuing a July 1, 2020 Public Service Announcement encouraging individuals to wear masks or face shields to prevent the spread of the coronavirus and to protect the members and residents of the FBIC, especially the elderly and vulnerable population; and,

WHEREAS daily statistics show that the COVID-19 coronavirus is increasing at alarming rates and is spreading throughout the State of Montana and is encroaching on Indian land at a rapid rate, coming closer to the FBIC borders; and,

WHEREAS the FBIC Health Department has distributed masks to businesses throughout the Fort Belknap Indian Community and has masks available for the general public.

WHEREAS it is tradition that we, as Indian people, do everything we can to protect our children, elderly, vulnerable populations, and our Community as a whole.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Fort Belknap Indian Community hereby further amends FBIC Resolution No.55-2020, as amended, to reflect that all individuals must wear masks or cloth face coverings over their noses and mouths while they are indoors or in public settings or communal places outside the home or any place where social distancing is not possible.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that masks must be worn in office settings at all times if distancing is not possible.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this directive shall apply to all businesses and entities, including suppliers, as well as individuals within the boundaries of the Fort Belknap Indian Community.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the following individuals do not have to comply with this Directive:

- a. Persons with health/medical conditions that preclude or are exacerbated by wearing a face covering.
- b. Persons with disabilities that prevents them from using the face covering as described in this Directive.
- c. Children under the age of 2 are not required to wear face coverings per Center of Disease Control) CDC guidelines.

Individuals claiming a medical exception must have a doctor statement to show the exemption.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the Council Officers are hereby delegated the authority and responsibility to sign any and all documents necessary to effect this action.

ATTEST:



Andrew Werk, Jr., President
Fort Belknap Indian Community Council



Steve Fox, Jr. Secretary/Treasurer
Fort Belknap Indian Community Council

CERTIFICATION

I, the undersigned, as Secretary of the Fort Belknap Indian Community Council of the Fort Belknap Indian Reservation, Montana, do hereby certify that the Fort Belknap Indian Community Council is composed of ten (10) members of whom 9 members constituting a quorum were present at a meeting thereof, duly and regularly called, noticed, convened and held this 13 day of July, 2020; and that the foregoing Resolution of the Fort Belknap Indian Community Council was duly adopted and approved the affirmative vote of 8 for; 0 opposed; 6 not voting; 1 temporary absent; 1 excused absent; and that the said Resolution has not been rescinded in any way.

DATE: 13 JULY 2020



Steve Fox, Jr., Secretary/Treasurer
Fort Belknap Indian Community Council