



ATNI Annual 2025 Convention Suquamish, Washington

RESOLUTION # 2025 – 44

“UNITED INDIANS OF ALL TRIBES FOUNDATION FOR LAWTON HOUSING ON SURPLUS FORT LAWTON LAND, SEATTLE, WASHINGTON”

PREAMBLE

We, the members of the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest 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 rights secured under Indian Treaties and benefits to which we are entitled under the laws and Constitution of the United States and several 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:

WHEREAS, the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians (ATNI) are the representatives and advocates for national, regional, and specific tribal concerns; and

WHEREAS, the ATNI is a regional organization comprised of American Indians/Alaska Natives and Indian tribal governments in the states of Washington, Idaho, Oregon, Montana, Nevada, Northern California, and Alaska; and

WHEREAS, the health, safety, welfare, education, economic and employment opportunity, and preservation of cultural and natural resources are primary goals and objectives of ATNI; and

WHEREAS, Bernie Whitebear of the Colville Confederated Tribes and his fellow United Indians Of All Tribes Foundation (UIATF) began building structures to support environmental security and sovereignty for Urban Indians; and

WHEREAS, on September 27, 1975 Bernie Whitebear negotiated a 99 year-lease on 20 plus acres in November of 1971 of lands the United States Government had previously utilized as the historic Fort Lawton, with the options to successive 99 year-plus lease renewals in a legally-binding agreement; and

WHEREAS, in 1975, Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act of 1975 (ISDEAA). 43 Title IV of ISDEAA authorized federally recognized tribes freedom from federal decision making, providing self-determination, governance, and revised boundaries for tribal sovereignty, which was reinforced by the Title A in 1994 for full funding and allocation of appropriations, to include housing; and

WHEREAS, the United States Government retained for military purposes approximately 34 acres at the northeast corner of Discovery Park; and

WHEREAS, in the early 2000s as part of a realignment of assets, the U.S. Base Realignment and Closure Commission designated the City as the entity entitled to repurpose the site; and

WHEREAS, the City has prepared plans for development of the site to accommodate low-income housing and additions of green space to Discovery Park, with completion of environmental review (FEIS) of a Fort Lawton Redevelopment Plan in 2019; and

WHEREAS, the current need is great for urban Native housing in Seattle which is home to some 16,700 and King County 57,000 Native People; and

WHEREAS, the opportunity to develop housing at the former Fort Lawton is a unique and ideal location with it centrally in the city and adjacent to Daybreak Star Indian Cultural Center; and

WHEREAS, Seattle's urban indigenous people are at high risk of homelessness and housing insecurity; and

WHEREAS, the Seattle City Council in June 2019 (Resolution 31887) confirmed "the City's commitment to further fair housing" in support of the Fort Lawton Redevelopment Plan; and

WHEREAS, the plan is for 500 units and a mix of apartments, condominiums and row houses where the community would be made up of primarily Native American families, seniors and veterans over 55; and

WHEREAS, this project will offer opportunities for families and workforce as well as opportunity for ownership to begin to build generational wealth; and

WHEREAS, United Indians of All Tribes Foundation has submitted and received a letter of intent for 105(L) funding to the Bureau of Indian Affairs for the Fort Lawton development project; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that ATNI enthusiastically supports the United Indians of All Tribes Foundation proceeding with the revised Fort Lawton Redevelopment Plan as quickly as possible; and

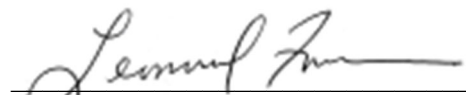
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that ATNI urges the City of Seattle to prioritize the project to provide housing for urban indigenous households; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that ATNI convey its strong support for this important project to the United Indians of All Tribes Foundation, Seattle City Council, the Mayor, and the involved Federal Agencies; and

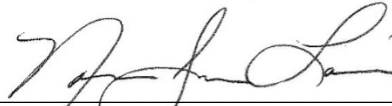
BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that this will be the policy of ATNI until it is withdrawn or modified by subsequent resolutions.

CERTIFICATION

The foregoing Resolution was adopted at the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians 2025 Annual Convention held at the Suquamish Clearwater Casino Resort in Suquamish, Washington on October 12-16, 2025, with a quorum present.



Leonard Forsman, President



Norma Jean Louie, Secretary