



2009 Annual Conference Tacoma, Washington

RESOLUTION #09 - 79

ESTABLISH A NCAI SUBCOMMITTEE FOR TRIBAL JUSTICE

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 representatives of and advocates for national, regional, and specific tribal concerns; and

WHEREAS, ATNI is a regional organization comprised of American Indians 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, the Tribal Law and Order Reform Act of 2009 (S.797) presents an unprecedented opportunity for Tribes and Tribal organizations to coordinate their efforts and develop a plan to effect significant long-term justice and safety improvements desperately needed; and

WHEREAS, there is a need to institutionalize a permanent tribal voice and tribal structure within the Department of Justice (DOJ); Department of the Interior (DOI); Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA); and, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS); Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA); and

WHEREAS, since September 2009, the Department of Justice (DOJ), Office of Justice Programs (OJP) established a Justice Programs Council on Native American Affairs (JPCNAA) – Tribal Justice Advisory Group to provide advice and assistance to DOJ on tribal justice and safety issues; and

WHEREAS, the DOI-BIA Tribal Budget Advisory Committee (TBAC) provides advice and assistance to the DOI-BIA on tribal justice and safety issues; and

WHEREAS, the HHS-SAMHSA established a SAMHSA Tribal Advisory Committee (STAC) to provide advice and assistance to SAMHSA on public health and safety issues, including national drug control policy with drug enforcement agencies, alcohol and substance abuse demand reduction, and behavioral health issues related to crime and their victims; and

WHEREAS, there is no national tribal governmental organization that is organized for the specific purpose of informing and representing Tribal leaders on these important tribal justice, law enforcement, and related public safety matters; and

WHEREAS, the NCAI Governance and Litigation Committee structure focuses on important litigation and governance issues encompassing Tribal justice, law enforcement, and public safety matters which can be enhanced by establishing this Tribal Justice and Safety Subcommittee; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians does hereby support and adopt the establishment of a NCAI Governance and Litigation subcommittee for Tribal Justice and Safety Issues; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that ATNI directs the new subcommittee to form its leadership through the respective Chairs and members of the DOJ-TJAG, DOI-TBAC and HHS-SAMHSA-STAC to prioritize to develop a proposed plan regarding the tribal justice and safety needs for Tribes and Tribal organizations; including, recognition and support for these respective tribal advisory bodies as permanent committees in the Tribal Law and Order Reform Act of 2009; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that this resolution shall be the policy of the NCAI until it is withdrawn or modified by subsequent resolution.

CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted at the 2009 Annual Conference of the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians, held at the Greater Tacoma Convention & Trade Center, Tacoma, Washington on September 21 - 24, 2009 with a quorum present.

Brian Cladoosby

Brian Cladoosby, President

Norma Jean Louie

Norma Jean Louie, Secretary