



**2017 Annual Convention
Spokane, WA**

RESOLUTION #17 - 45

**SUPPORT WASHINGTON STATE INITIATIVE TO THE LEGISLATURE REQUIRING
LAW ENFORCEMENT RECEIVE VIOLENCE DE-ESCALATION, MENTAL HEALTH,
AND FIRST AID TRAINING, ADDRESSING CRIMINAL LIABILITY FOR POLICE
MISUSE OF DEADLY FORCE, REQUIRING COMPLETELY INDEPENDENT
INVESTIGATIONS, AND REQUIRING TRIBAL INVOLVEMENT**

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, Executive Orders, 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 to 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/Alaska Natives and tribes 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 the ATNI; and

WHEREAS, the ATNI tribes have a large presence in Washington State and their members are located throughout the state, and Tribes and their members are in frequent contact with law enforcement agencies throughout the state; and

WHEREAS, the issue of police use of deadly force is of particular concern to tribes and tribal members throughout the state because several of our tribal communities continue to experience tragic situations and, according to the Center on Juvenile and Criminal Justice, Native Americans are the group most likely to be killed by law enforcement; and

WHEREAS, the care and safety of our members is paramount and we will do all we can to help protect them and make our communities safe for generations to come; and

WHEREAS, the State of Washington established a joint legislative Task Force on the use of deadly force in community policing, which met in 2016, with membership including Puyallup Tribal council member Timothy Reynon representing the Governor's Office of Indian Affairs; and

WHEREAS, the Task Force prepared recommendations to address the gaps in State law, and submitted a report to the Governor and the Legislature, and SB 5073 and HB 1529 were introduced in 2017, yet the Legislature was unable to gain passage of the proposals; and

WHEREAS, a broad coalition of community organizations and advocates, including the leadership of the Puyallup Tribe has developed a peoples initiative to address the areas of concern of Tribal people and the community, and has formed the De-Escalate Washington Campaign to advocate for Initiative 940; and

WHEREAS, the De-Escalate Washington Campaign is led by families impacted by violence, by people of color, and by Tribes, including Puyallup Councilmember Tim Reynon as the vice-chair, Puyallup Tribal member Chester Earl and Justice for Jackie leader as an executive committee member at large, and Lanna Covarubbias, Suquamish and Nez Perce native as the Chair of the Family Advisory Council and Leadership Team member; and

WHEREAS, Initiative 940 provides a framework of accountability in four areas:

- (1) Accountability to professionalism and best practices, which includes better training for law enforcement on violence de-escalation and mental health so that deadly force is used only as a last resort;
- (2) Accountability to the preservation and respect for life, which requires officers to render first aid at the scene;
- (3) Accountability to the rule of law, which removes the de facto immunity from prosecution and requires that officer use of deadly force be subject to an objective and subjective good faith standard; and
- (4) Accountability to tribal governments and accountability to the community, which requires that Tribal governments be included in investigations involving tribal members and at the table for development of curriculum, training standards, and rules on investigations, and requires the involvement of tribes and diverse

community stakeholders, including native people in the deliberations and decision making; now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that ATNI supports Initiative 940, and believes that it is an important first step to change the culture of policing by reducing conflict between our communities and law enforcement, and promoting a more positive relationship that will build bridges between the community and police; and


BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that ATNI will support the efforts of the De-Escalate Washington Campaign through:

- (1) signature gathering;
- (2) financial contributions;
- (3) public statements of endorsement and support; and

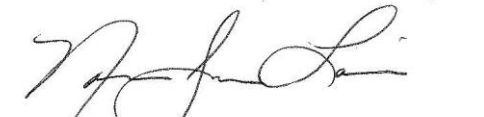
BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that ATNI urges communicate with Governor Inslee, Attorney General Ferguson, and with legislative leadership, regarding the importance of the policies in Initiative 940 to protect and serve tribal people and increase safety for our communities and for law enforcement.

CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted at the 2017 Annual Convention of the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians, held at the Davenport Grand Hotel, Spokane, Washington on September 18-21, 2017, with a quorum present.



Leonard Forsman, President



Norma Jean Louie, Secretary