



# *Jena Band of Choctaw Indians*

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## **TRIBAL COUNCIL RESOLUTION**

**JBC 2020- 0316**

**WHEREAS**, the Jena Band of Choctaw Indians is a sovereign federally recognized Indian tribe, Acknowledged as a Sovereign Indian Nation by the United States Government; and

**WHEREAS**, the Tribal Council of the Jena Band of Choctaw Indians (the "Tribal Council") is the governing body of the Jena Band of Choctaw Indians (the "Tribe"); and

**WHEREAS**, the Tribal Council is authorized by the Tribal Constitution to act and exercise Tribal Authority on behalf of the Tribe; and

**WHEREAS**, the Tribal Council has the duly authorized right to promote self-government on the Jena Band of Choctaw Tribal Lands; and

**WHEREAS**, the Tribal Council has the authority and responsibility, as recognized under Article VIII, Section 1 of the Constitution, to provide for the health, education, welfare, and safety of the Tribal Members; and

**WHEREAS**, as the Coronavirus or COVID-19 has been declared a pandemic by the World Health Organization and is now found in the State of Louisiana, the Tribal Council recognizes that it has a duty to protect its vulnerable citizens that are at risk of death from this illness; and

**WHEREAS**, the Tribe has many elders and Tribal Members who suffer from hypertension, cardiac conditions, and diabetes, all of whom are considered at elevated risk by the Federal Center for Disease Control; and

**WHEREAS**, because of the vulnerable population of Tribal Members that are considered at risk by the Coronavirus, and the limitations of the health care system in rural Louisiana, it is of vital importance that the Tribe be able to access any Federal and State funds that are made available to Tribal governments to fight the Coronavirus; and

**WHEREAS**, due to the Coronavirus pandemic and to protect the health, well-being, and survival of the Tribe, the Tribal Council has determined that it is in the best interest of the Tribe to declare a State of Tribal Emergency.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Tribal Council does hereby declare a State of Tribal Emergency that governs all who live, work on, and do business within the boundaries of the Tribal Lands of the Jena Band of Choctaw Indians, trust and fee simple, located in LaSalle Parish and Grant Parish, Louisiana, United States.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that this State of Emergency shall last until it is amended or lifted by the Tribal Council.

#### **CERTIFICATION**

The stated resolution was enacted and adopted on the 16<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2020, by the Jena Band of Choctaw Indians Tribal Council, with a quorum present; the vote was 5 (for), 0 (against), and 0 (absent).

B. Cheryl Smith

B. Cheryl Smith

Libby Rogers

Libby Rogers

Lillie Williamson

Lillie Williamson

Lisa Norris

Lisa Norris

Lacy Robbins

Lacy Robbins