



## UNITED SOUTH AND EASTERN TRIBES, INC.

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USET Resolution No. 2001:082

### **SUPPORT FOR THE NARRAGANSETT INDIAN TRIBE'S EFFORTS TO ENTER INTO A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH THE STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND THE TOWN OF CHARLESTOWN REGARDING LAW ENFORCEMENT ARRANGEMENTS**

- WHEREAS,** United South and Eastern Tribes Incorporated (USET) is an intertribal organization comprised of twenty-four (24) federally recognized tribes; and
- WHEREAS,** the actions taken by the USET Board of Directors officially represent the intentions of each member tribe, as the Board of Directors comprises delegates from the member tribes' leadership; and
- WHEREAS,** under such laws as the Indian Law Enforcement Reform Act, P.L. 101-379, 25 U.S.C. 2801 et seq., the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), is responsible for providing, or for assisting in the provision of, law enforcement services in Indian Country; and
- WHEREAS,** pursuant to the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act, P.L. 93-638, and grants from the Justice Department under its Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) grants, the Narragansett Indian Tribe has contracted law enforcement services with the BIA and entered into deputization agreement with the BIA to provide for efficient, effective, and cooperative law enforcement efforts in and around Indian Country in the State of Rhode Island; and
- WHEREAS,** for more than two years now the Narragansett Tribe has sought to enter into an agreement with State and Town of Charlestown officials to facilitate cooperation and mutual aid between the Tribe's public safety officers and public safety officers of the State and local government; and
- WHEREAS,** State and local officials have repeatedly declined the Tribe's request to enter into such agreements and no formalized procedures are in place which facilitate cooperation and mutual aid between the Tribe's public safety department and State and local public safety departments, nor can the Tribe access Rhode Island's Law Enforcement Telecommunications System (RILETS), and other public safety radio frequencies which better ensures the safety and well being of all public safety officers by permitting access to critical criminal record data and other pertinent information; and
- WHEREAS,** without such public safety agreements in place, the health and safety of Tribal public safety officers, and the Tribal community they serve, are place at risk; and
- WHEREAS,** other laws such as the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act (NAHASDA), require that Indian tribes enter into public safety agreements as a condition to expending affordable housing funds for low-income Indian families; and
- WHEREAS,** the federal government has a trust responsibility to protect the sovereignty of all federally recognized Indians and the well being of tribal members; therefore, be it

*"Because there is strength in Unity"*

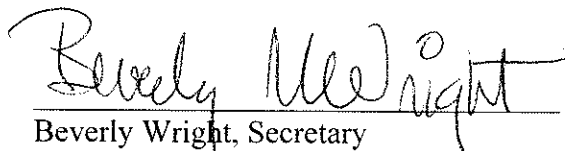
**RESOLVED** that USET Board of Directors does hereby request the Department of the Interior, the Department of Justice and the Department of Housing and Urban Development to take all steps necessary to protect the sovereign status and safety of the Narragansett Indian Tribe, and its members, including, without limitation, investigating whether the Tribe's civil rights have been violated by acts or omissions of State and Town of Charlestown's officials.

**CERTIFICATION**

This resolution was duly passed at the USET Semi-Annual Meeting, at which a quorum was present in Marksville, LA, on Thursday, May 24, 2001.



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Keller George, President  
United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.



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Beverly Wright, Secretary  
United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.