

White Earth Reservation Tribal Council

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News Release
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Friday, March 19, 2021
#21-03-02

White Earth RBC declares a homelessness emergency on reservation

The White Earth Reservation Business Committee unanimously passed a Resolution today declaring a Homelessness Emergency on the White Earth Reservation in response to the number of homeless individuals on the reservation.

The WERBC recognizes that many individuals and families are considered homeless and at times encounter circumstances that alter their ability to provide the basic needs of their households and compounds the negative impacts of many barriers already faced by many within the community - including substance abuse, mental illness and poverty.

White Earth programs have been working to prevent homelessness and maintain stable housing for individuals, families, youth and veterans. The White Earth Homeless Program provides housing assistance and emergency hotel vouchers for rooms and meals to individuals and families. In addition to outside agencies that have the potential to provide substantial assistance, the WERBC envisions an adult shelter that offers services.

The WERBC directs that all White Earth agencies and entities, including but not limited to the White Earth Housing Authority, Law Enforcement, Economic Development, Human Services, Legal, Mental Health and Community Councils, to continue to meet and work collaboratively towards solutions to the in-depth and complex problems caused by homelessness.

**WHITE EARTH RESERVATION BUSINESS COMMITTEE
WHITE EARTH BAND OF CHIPPEWA INDIANS**

Resolution No. _____

DECLARATION OF HOMELESSNESS EMERGENCY

- WHEREAS,** the White Earth Reservation Business Committee is the duly elected governing body of the White Earth Reservation pursuant to Article VI, Section 1, of the revised constitution of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe, as amended, and organized under Section 16, of the Act of June 18, 1934 (48 Stat. 984), and
- WHEREAS,** the White Earth Reservation Business Committee is the duly authorized governing body of the White Earth Band, and
- WHEREAS,** the White Earth Reservation Business Committee (WERBC) has the authority and the responsibility to provide for the safety, health and welfare of its members and over its territory within the exterior boundaries of the White Earth Reservation, and
- WHEREAS,** the White Earth Reservation Business Committee declared a state of emergency for the White Earth Reservation in response to the number of homeless individuals on the White Earth Reservation, and
- WHEREAS,** the White Earth Reservation Business Committee has been working to prevent homelessness, maintain stable housing for individuals and families, provide support services to stabilize the housing of individuals, families, youth and veterans, and
- WHEREAS,** the White Earth Homeless Program provides housing assistance and emergency hotel vouchers for hotel rooms and meals to individuals and families, and
- WHEREAS,** the White Earth Reservation Business Committee recognizes that many of our individual members and families are considered “homeless” and at times encounter extenuating circumstances that alter their ability to provide the basic needs of their households, and
- WHEREAS,** the White Earth Reservation Business Committee recognizes the need to assist households that have been impacted by COVID-19 through unemployment, illness, or other COVID-19 related circumstances, and
- WHEREAS,** the White Earth Reservation Business Committee recognizes the high incidence of homelessness within the White Earth Reservation is critical and compounds the

negative impacts of many barriers already faced by many within our community including substance abuse, mental illness, poverty, and addiction, and

WHEREAS, the White Earth Reservation Business Committee recognizes that outside agencies have the potential to provide substantial assistance in overcoming the homelessness crisis including the following: the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Mahube, the Minnesota Housing Finance Agency, the Minnesota Department of Health, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, and

WHEREAS, the WERBC envisions an adult shelter that offers services to the individuals, now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the White Earth Reservation Business Committee hereby declares a Homelessness emergency on the White Earth Reservation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the White Earth Reservation Business Committee hereby directs all White Earth agencies and entities, including but not limited to: White Earth Housing Authority, Law Enforcement, Economic Development, Human Services, Legal, Mental Health and Community Councils, to continue to meet and work collaboratively toward solutions to the in-depth and complex problems caused by homelessness.

We do hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was adopted by a vote of _____ for, _____ against, _____ silent, a quorum being present at a regular meeting of the White Earth Reservation Business Committee held on _____, 2021 in _____, Minnesota.

Michael A. Fairbanks, Chairman

Leonard Alan Roy, Secretary/Treasurer