

## LITTLE TRAVERSE BAY BANDS OF ODAWA INDIANS

7500 ODAWA CIRCLE  
HARBOR SPRINGS, MI 49740

### DECLARATION

#### **Statement of Concern regarding the Oakland County's Executive L. Brooks Patterson Racist Comments**

*A Declaration is a formal written public statement in support or opposition of an issue or matter. One or more Tribal Councilors may sign onto a Declaration as individual Councilors, along with the Tribal Chair. A Declaration shall not obligate or commit the Tribe in any manner. Declarations do not require formal action by the Tribal Council.*

The Waganakising Odawak is a nation of citizens with inherent sovereignty and right to self-governance; and

The Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians is a federally recognized Indian Tribe under Public Law 103-324, and is a party to numerous Treaties with the United States the most recent of which being the Treaty of Washington of March 28, 1836 (7 Stat. 491) and the Treaty of Detroit of 1855 (11 Stat. 621); and

In accordance with the Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians Constitution:

*“ IN THE WAYS OF OUR ANCESTORS, to perpetuate our way of life for future generations, we the Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians, called in our own language the WAGANAKISING ODAWAK, a sovereign, self-governing people who follow the Anishinaabe Traditions, Heritage, and Cultural Values, set forth within this Constitution the foundation of our governance.*

In accordance with the Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians' Constitution, Article I. *Directive Principle: Promote with special care the health, educational and economic interests of all the people, especially our children and elders, and shall protect them from social injustice and all forms of exploitation.*

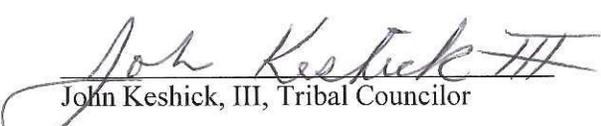
Oakland County Executive L. Brooks Patterson was quoted in an article on Monday January 2014, by the New Yorker Magazine's online publication as saying, "I made a prediction a long time ago, and it's come to pass. I said, "What we're gonna do is turn Detroit into an Indian reservation, where we herd all the Indians into the City, build a fence around it, and then throw in the blankets and corn."

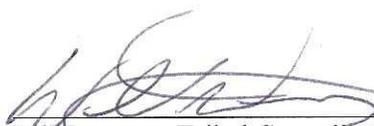
The Rev. Charles E. Williams II, president of the Michigan Chapter of the National Action Network, said, "These remarks are repulsive and racist. Not just because the City of Detroit is over 80% African American, but because it is also a direct slight to the American Indian who occupied the land before Detroit was Detroit and Oakland County was Oakland County."

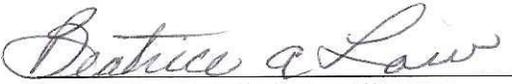
The undersigned Tribal Councilors agree with Rev. William II, and declare that Patterson's remarks were disrespectful and insensitive to both the American Indian community and the City of Detroit.

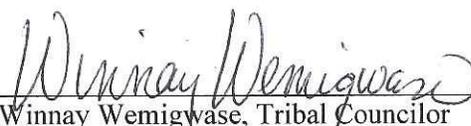
A copy of this Declaration is on file at the Tribal Council Legislative Office.

Signed on this date:

  
John Keshick, III, Tribal Councilor

 2/2/14  
Bill Denemy, Tribal Councilor

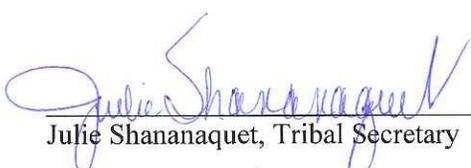
  
Beatrice Law, Tribal Councilor

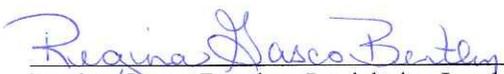
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Winnay Wemigwase, Tribal Councilor

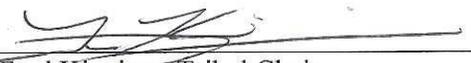
 2/2/14  
Mike Naganashe, Tribal Councilor

 2/2/2014  
Aaron Otto, Tribal Councilor

  
Marcie Reyes, Tribal Treasurer

  
Julie Shananaquet, Tribal Secretary

  
Regina Gasco Bentley, Legislative Leader

  
Fred Kiogima, Tribal Chair