



Walker River Paiute Tribe

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**RESOLUTION OF THE GOVERNING BODY
OF THE
WALKER RIVER PAIUTE TRIBE
RESOLUTION NO. WR-41-2020**

COVID-19: CLOSING NON-ESSENTIAL BUSINESSES

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TRIBAL COUNCIL OF THE WALKER RIVER PAIUTE TRIBE THAT:

WHEREAS, the governing body of the Walker River Paiute Tribe (“Tribe”) is organized under the provisions of the Indian Reorganization Act of June, 1934, as amended, to exercise certain rights of home rule and to be responsible for the promotion of the economic and social welfare of its members; and

WHEREAS, the Walker River Paiute Tribal Council is charged with the responsibility of establishing policy, taking action to protect the peace and safety of Tribal members; and taking action to provide administrative guidelines; and

WHEREAS, on March 16, 2020, the Walker River Tribal Council adopted Resolution No. WR-37-2020 that declared a state of emergency based on the COVID-19 pandemic and established an Emergency Team to coordinate Tribal responses to COVID-19 events; and

WHEREAS, due to the COVID-19 threat, Tribal Chairwoman Amber Torres issued a letter dated March 17, 2020 to the community recommending that community members stay home and self-quarantine, and notifying the community that the Tribe has revised its operations to place most Tribal employees on administrative leave with only essential employees continuing to work; and

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic continues to threaten the Tribal community, and cases of the illness continue to climb, with a similar rise in deaths; and many communities throughout the United States are experiencing a shortage of medical supplies needed to treat infected persons; and

WHEREAS, the Tribal Council continues to recognize the threat to the Tribe and members of the Reservation community who may be exposed to the illness, and recognizes that the immediate containment of the spread of COVID-19 is vital to protect the health and safety of Tribal members and others on the Reservation; and

WHEREAS, the World Health Organization and United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention have advised that there is correlation between density of persons gathered and the risk of transmission of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, the rate of community spread of COVID-19 can only be reduced by minimizing contact between infected persons and non-infected persons even prior to the expression of symptoms in an infected person; and

WHEREAS, the Tribe's Health Clinic has a limited ability to treat people with COVID-19 symptoms and local hospitals have informed the Tribe that they cannot take in COVID-19 patients, which adds greater risks to visitors to the Reservation who may not be able to obtain treatment but the visitors pose a threat of contamination to Reservation residents; and

WHEREAS, the State of Nevada has taken actions to address COVID-19 by also declaring a state of emergency, and Governor Sisolak through the Declaration of Emergency and related declarations ordered all nonessential businesses in Nevada to cease operations; and

WHEREAS, the Tribal Council recognizes the need to take further action to protect Tribal members, visitors to the community, Tribal employees and any others from COVID-19, and only takes these actions after weighing the impact of any restrictions on Tribal members and the community with the threat from COVID-19;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Walker River Tribal Council hereby orders that all nonessential businesses on the Walker River Paiute Reservation shall cease operations beginning at 11:59 p.m. March 26, 2020.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, for consistency and to avoid confusion, the Tribal Council hereby adopts the definition of essential and nonessential businesses as defined by the State of Nevada in its declarations and regulations, including the Emergency Regulation issued on March 20, 2020 that specifically addresses this issue. Nonessential businesses include but are not limited to all retail businesses, excluding convenience stores and gas stations as more specifically addressed in the Emergency Regulation. Essential businesses that are allowed to stay open must follow strict social distancing protocols as well as best hygiene practices. A copy of the State of Nevada Emergency Regulation can be obtained at:

<https://nvhealthresponse.nv.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/3.20-Emergency-regulations.pdf>

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, a person's failure to comply with any of the provisions of this

Resolution constitutes an imminent threat to the public health. Any person found to be in violation of this Resolution is subject to criminal and civil penalties pursuant to the Tribe's Law and Order Code, which penalties may be up to 365 days in jail or a fine of \$5,000; and this Resolution shall be enforced by Tribal law enforcement and prosecuted before the Tribal Court by affording the accused with proper due process. Additionally, the business may be subject to having its business license suspended or revoked for failure to comply with applicable Tribal laws.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the orders in this Resolution shall remain in effect until the Tribal Council terminates the state of emergency declared by Resolution No. WR-37-2020 or takes other action to revise, amend or rescind this Resolution.

CERTIFICATION

It is hereby certified that the foregoing resolution of the Walker River Paiute Tribal Council of the Walker River Paiute Tribe composed of seven members of whom 5 constituting a quorum adopted the foregoing resolution on the 27th day of March 2020 by the affirmative vote of 5 FOR, 0 AGAINST, and 0 ABSTENTIONS; pursuant to the authority contained in the Constitution and By-Laws of the Walker River Paiute Tribe of Nevada.



Gina L. Wachsmuth, Tribal Council Secretary
WALKER RIVER PAIUTE TRIBE