



**NORTHERN CHEYENNE TRIBE
TRIBAL COUNCIL**

P.O. Box 128

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VIA OVERNIGHT MAIL

December 3, 2025

William Kirkland, Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240

Re: Request for Immediate Investigation and Evidence Preservation — BIA Law Enforcement Interference with the Northern Cheyenne Tribe's Legislative Branch (September–October 2025; September 11–12 and October 8, 2025)

Assistant Secretary Kirkland:

The Northern Cheyenne Tribal Council respectfully submits this formal request for an immediate Departmental investigation into the conduct of Bureau of Indian Affairs (“BIA”) law enforcement personnel, including the Office of Justice Services (“OJS”), assigned to or operating within the Northern Cheyenne Agency during September and October 2025—particularly the incidents of September 11–12, 2025 and October 8, 2025. As set forth below and in the attached affidavits, BIA/OJS law enforcement actions during these periods appear to have constituted undue and unlawful interference with the Tribe’s legislative branch, including actions that displaced sitting members of the duly elected Tribal Council from their offices, impaired the lawful Council’s ability to function, and materially altered the status quo during an internal governance dispute.

Attached are sworn affidavits of Melissa Fisher and Melissa Lonebear, both sitting Council members, and Ryhal Rowland, the Tribal Council’s Information Specialist with direct and contemporaneous knowledge of the events at issue. These affidavits describe escalating threats and intimidation directed at Council members on September 11–12; repeated calls and requests for protective assistance from BIA law enforcement that were not met with even-handed response; and, on October 8, the arrest and detention of sitting Council members under accusations described as “governmental interference” following the Council’s attempt to access its governmental offices.

The Council incorporates these affidavits by reference and requests that your office treat them as foundational factual submissions supporting this investigation request.

The affidavits show a troubling inversion of law-enforcement priorities. Council members describe seeking assistance for safety threats—yelling, pounding on windows, harassment, intimidation, and being treated as trespassers in their own offices—while law enforcement response was delayed or ineffective when Council members sought protection, yet rapidly escalated when allegations were made against Council members by individuals aligned with a rival faction. In particular, the affiants describe accusations that Council members were taking “files” being leveraged as a pretext for enforcement attention, including requests to search vehicles, while threats against Council members and interference with governmental operations went unaddressed.

The affidavits also support a serious inquiry into whether BIA/OJS law enforcement engaged in selective or uneven enforcement that disadvantaged the legislative branch. Ms. Rowland describes BIA/OJS personnel requesting a list of Council-aligned security, running names, and arresting certain Council security personnel on warrants/probation matters, while not applying a comparable enforcement posture to executive-aligned security personnel despite information that similar warrants or legal issues existed. Whether or not the Department ultimately agrees with each conclusion drawn, the described conduct warrants immediate internal review, because it suggests law enforcement actions were deployed in a manner that predictably reduced the Council’s ability to maintain safety and operational access while leaving the opposing faction’s security posture intact.

With respect to October 8, 2025, the affidavits provide additional details that bear directly on planning, probable cause, and command authorization. Council Member Lonebear reports calling law enforcement for assistance at approximately 9:46 a.m. and being told officers were “on the way.” Entry into the building occurred shortly thereafter by key card. Council Members Fisher and Lonebear describe BIA law enforcement arrival at approximately 9:59 a.m. and a substantial enforcement posture including multiple vehicles and a transport/holding vehicle described as a “paddy wagon,” followed by arrests of sitting Council members after a delay. Ms. Rowland further reports that arrests began after an extended period and that officers proceeded to arrest and handcuff individuals without meaningful investigation, without first asking questions, and without providing an opportunity to comply with a lawful order to leave. These facts present substantial questions as to whether the enforcement operation was pre-planned and whether probable cause existed, as opposed to a decision to “make arrests” in furtherance of a political displacement.

The Council emphasizes that these are not minor operational issues. The conduct described constitutes federal law enforcement involvement in a tribal separation-of-powers crisis that had the effect of disabling the Tribe’s legislative branch, allowing unlawful occupation or control of Council offices, and depriving elected officials of liberty and operational access during a live governance dispute. Such actions are incompatible with the BIA’s stated policy of noninterference in intra-tribal disputes and inconsistent with the federal trust responsibility, particularly where

federal officers are alleged to have taken coercive actions that predictably shifted control of governmental space and records.

Accordingly, the Council requests that your office open a formal investigation—through OJS internal affairs, the Office of Inspector General as appropriate, and any other proper oversight channel—addressing, at minimum, the following:

1. Whether BIA/OJS law enforcement acted in a manner that improperly favored or assisted a rival faction during an intra-tribal governance dispute;
2. Whether BIA/OJS had lawful authority and probable cause to arrest and detain sitting elected Council members under the circumstances described;
3. Whether officers responded appropriately and even-handedly to requests for assistance and threats to safety and governmental operations on September 11–12, including whether failure to respond contributed to escalation;
4. Whether officers coordinated directly or indirectly with individuals lacking lawful authority to direct law enforcement actions concerning tribal government buildings;
5. Whether selective enforcement occurred—including the requesting of Council security lists, “running names,” and uneven warrant enforcement—and whether such actions were undertaken with appropriate supervisory justification; and
6. Whether evidentiary and reporting requirements were met, including incident reports, narratives, supervisory approvals, charging documentation, and compliance with any OJS policies governing politically sensitive operations.

Evidence Preservation Demand

Because the events at issue are recent and because routine retention and overwrite policies create an immediate risk of spoliation, the Northern Cheyenne Tribal Council hereby demands that the Department issue an immediate written preservation directive (“litigation hold”) to all relevant DOI/BIA components, including the Northern Cheyenne Agency and all BIA/OJS personnel involved, requiring preservation of all documents, data, recordings, and communications relating to September 11–12, 2025 and October 8, 2025, including without limitation:

1. Dispatch and operational records: all 911/call logs; CAD entries; incident numbers; response timelines; dispatch notes; unit assignments; duty rosters; and deployment logs (including the October 8 call reported at approximately 9:46 a.m.).
2. Audio/visual evidence: all body-worn camera footage; in-car video; facility surveillance video; handheld recordings; photographs; and associated metadata (timestamps, upload logs, edits, deletions, and chain-of-custody records).

3. Officer communications: all radio traffic recordings; and all internal communications in any form (email, text/SMS, messaging apps, Teams/Slack-type platforms, call logs, voicemails) between officers, supervisors, dispatch, OJS leadership, or any DOI/BIA personnel concerning these incidents.
4. Arrest/detention documentation: all incident reports; arrest reports; narratives; probable-cause statements; charging documents; citations; booking/transport logs; detention logs; release paperwork; property/evidence intake logs; and any court filings or referrals.
5. Command authorization and planning: all supervisory approvals, directives, briefings, operational plans, after-action notes, and communications reflecting planning, staging, transport resources (including any transport or holding vehicle), or coordination of the law enforcement response.
6. Access and occupancy records: all building access logs (key-card/door logs); key control records; security reports; directions given to security; and any documentation regarding restrictions on Council access to offices, records, or systems.
7. Third-party coordination: all communications and records of contact between BIA/OJS and any third parties concerning governance, access, occupancy, and enforcement—including any communications with individuals purporting to act as “chiefs,” “interim council,” executive-branch security, contractors, or other affiliates.

This preservation obligation must include all devices and accounts used for BIA/OJS business (government-issued and personal devices/accounts if used to communicate about these events), and it must include preservation of deleted items, audit logs, retention settings, and any auto-delete/overwrite policies applicable to recordings and electronic communications.

The Council requests written confirmation within ten (10) calendar days that (i) a preservation directive has been issued, (ii) the relevant custodians and systems have been identified, and (iii) the above categories of evidence are being secured.

In addition, to eliminate any ambiguity and to ensure appropriate accountability, the Council requests that DOI/BIA provide written responses identifying: **(a)** the specific legal authority and probable cause asserted for the arrests and detentions described in the affidavits; **(b)** the identity and chain-of-authorization for those arrests and the charging decision(s); and **(c)** the Department’s explanation for why comparable enforcement posture was not applied to reported threats, intimidation, interference with governmental operations, and unlawful occupation of Council offices during the September period.

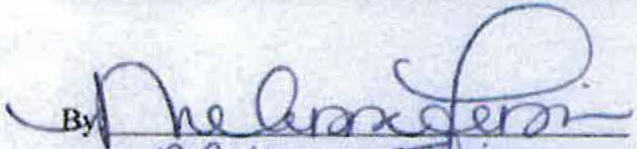
The Council requests written confirmation within ten (10) calendar days that (1) an investigation has been opened (or referred to OIG), (2) a preservation directive has been issued, and (3) the above categories of evidence are being preserved. If your office concludes that referral to the

Office of Inspector General is appropriate, the Council requests written confirmation of the referral and the assigned point of contact.

Finally, the Council notes that BIA/OJS law enforcement intervention has enabled an unlawful faction to control access to Council offices and has materially impaired the Tribe's legislative branch. Elected officials cannot carry out legislative duties when excluded from offices, deprived of access to records and administrative systems, and deprived of the ability to retain counsel while being forced to respond to legal and administrative crises. The Council therefore requests that the Department take immediate steps to ensure that no further law enforcement actions are taken that interfere with the legislative branch pending the outcome of this investigation.

Respectfully submitted,

NORTHERN CHEYENNE TRIBAL COUNCIL:

By: 

Name:

Melissa Fisher

Title:

Sergeant at Arms

Address:

PO Box 804 Ashland MT 59103

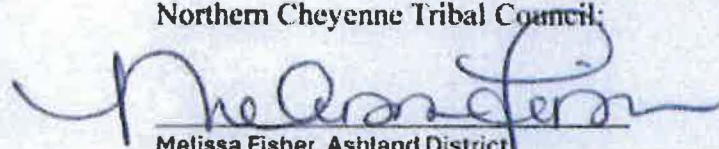
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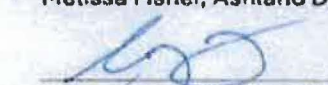
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Email:

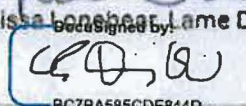
MelFisher79@gmail.com

Northern Cheyenne Tribal Council:

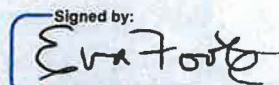

Melissa Fisher, Ashland District


Nizhoni Friesz, Lame Deer District


Melissa Lonebear, Lame Deer District

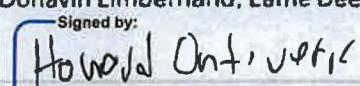

Stefan Raining Bird, Busby District

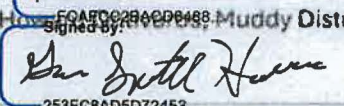
Signed by:


DB5AD209E8D04F4...
Eva Foote, Ashland District


Donavin Limberhand, Lame Deer District

Signed by:


Howard Ontiveros, Muddy District


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Gwen Spottedhorse, Birney District

Enclosures: Affidavit of Melissa Fisher;
Affidavit of Melissa Lonebear; and
Affidavit of Ryhal Rowland

AFFIDAVIT OF MELISSA FISHER

I, Melissa Fisher, being first duly sworn, hereby state as follows:

1. I am an adult member of the Northern Cheyenne Tribe. During all events described below, I was a sitting, duly elected and seated member of the Northern Cheyenne Tribal Council. I give this affidavit based on my personal knowledge, my direct observations, and my best present recollection of events.
2. I provide this affidavit to request an investigation by the Bureau of Indian Affairs into the conduct of BIA law enforcement personnel and/or those acting under their direction during the events of September 11–12, 2025 and October 8, 2025, including the arrest and detention of four sitting Council members based on allegations of “governmental interference,” and the apparent law enforcement support provided to a rival faction attempting to seize and occupy Tribal governmental offices.
3. On or about September 11, 2025, a removal hearing occurred involving President Gene Small. On that date there was a large and hostile gathering outside the building, including individuals aligned with the group commonly referred to as the “chiefs” faction. The environment was threatening, and I feared for my safety. I had information that individuals associated with that faction had threatened violence toward me.
4. During the events of September 11, law enforcement was present in and around the building. At one point, it was communicated to me that law enforcement was going to take me outside to the “teepee” because members of the “chiefs” faction were demanding my presence there. I refused because I believed it was unsafe and because I understood the demand was being made by hostile individuals attempting to intimidate Council members.
5. After proceedings concluded, Council members left the building with personal belongings. As we left, we were yelled at and called names. It was extremely hostile. I felt threatened, and it was clear that the group outside was attempting to shame, intimidate, and prevent us from exercising lawful authority.
6. On September 12, 2025, after an earlier meeting, several Council members—including myself—returned to the tribal building to continue governmental work. We entered using our

access cards. We were attempting to conduct official Council business, including a scheduled Zoom call with counsel and others.

7. Upon entry, a contracted security guard confronted us and asserted that we were “removed” and “not supposed to be” in the building. The guard’s statements and posture treated seated Council members as trespassers in their own governmental offices. This was alarming and inconsistent with the fact that we were still elected officials carrying out duties.
8. Once inside, we observed that internal systems appeared to have been disrupted. My recollection is that equipment had been unplugged or altered in a way that interfered with council business and communications. This was consistent with an effort to prevent the lawfully elected Council from functioning.
9. While we were inside, individuals outside pounded on windows and yelled. The situation escalated to the point that my daughter, Velma, became visibly distressed and cried. We feared the crowd was attempting to force entry or intimidate us into leaving.
10. A Council member called law enforcement requesting assistance due to the crowd and threats. My understanding and recollection is that law enforcement did not respond in a way that protected us or restored order at that time.
11. After leaving the building, people accused us of stealing documents and “files.” The allegations were false. It appeared to me those accusations were used as a pretext to trigger law enforcement action against us.
12. During these events, I observed law enforcement focus on allegations that Council members were taking “files,” including requests to search or inspect a vehicle trunk. I did not consent. Critically, the response priorities appeared inverted: we could not get protective assistance when threatened and surrounded, but law enforcement attention quickly shifted to accusations made against us by the hostile faction.
13. On or about September 25, 2025, I observed and/or became aware that individuals aligned with the “chiefs” faction packed and removed Council members’ office belongings. Some items were placed outside on the lawn. This was humiliating and inappropriate and further demonstrated that the faction was attempting to seize offices and expel elected officials.

14. My recollection is that law enforcement officers were present in the parking area during this removal. Their presence appeared to protect or facilitate the removal/occupation activity rather than protect Council property rights or restore lawful access.
15. On October 8, 2025, I and other Council members attempted to return to the tribal building to conduct official work. Given prior harassment and intimidation, family members accompanied us for safety.
16. At approximately 9:46 a.m., Council Member Melissa Lonebear placed a call to law enforcement requesting assistance. We were told officers were "on the way."
17. At approximately 9:48 a.m., entry was made into the building through a magnetic-lock door using a key card. I observed that supporters aligned with the "chiefs" faction gathered and positioned themselves as if they were prepared for confrontation and recording.
18. At approximately 9:59 a.m., BIA law enforcement arrived, including Chief of Police Peter Rodriguez and Lieutenant Cordell Anthony. I observed multiple law enforcement vehicles arriving and positioning around the building. I also observed a transport vehicle (described as a "paddy wagon") present as part of the response. The presence and posture of law enforcement appeared to be organized in advance and consistent with a planned enforcement action rather than protection of elected officials seeking access to their offices.
19. After law enforcement arrived, there was a period during which officers met or gathered on the north wing of the building. During that time, we remained in the building in a volatile and hostile situation. My understanding was that law enforcement did not take steps to secure lawful Council access or disperse the hostile crowd.
20. After approximately an hour or more, officers entered and began arresting Council members. I was arrested. I was then detained, including being held October 8-10th.
21. The charge communicated to me was "governmental interference," as defined in the newly effective law and order code (effective approximately October 1, 2025). My citation lacked detailed factual allegations establishing probable cause; it presented the charge label without meaningful supporting facts.

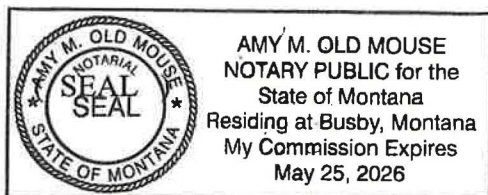
22. As a duly elected councilwoman who has never been removed, I do not understand how I can be charged with "governmental interference" while simply trying to occupy my office and doing my job unless the BIA took the side of Gene Small and the unlawful faction and recognized them as officials of the Northern Cheyenne Tribe.
23. The arrest and detention of elected Council members had an immediate chilling and disabling effect on the lawful government of the Tribe. It deprived the Council of functional access to offices, resources, and the ability to carry out duties. It also created a severe inability to retain counsel or defend the Council's position because access to operational funds and systems was blocked or controlled by the opposing faction, whose takeover was facilitated by law enforcement actions described above.
24. I request that the BIA investigate whether the arrests were supported by lawful authority and probable cause, whether BIA officers acted contrary to neutrality standards, and whether law enforcement actions improperly enabled one faction to seize and control government offices. I further request that the BIA immediately preserve all dispatch logs, body-worn camera footage (if any), in-car video, radio traffic, call recordings, incident reports, citations, booking records, and communications among officers and supervisors for the dates identified above.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and recollection.

DATED this 3rd day of December, 2025.


Melissa Fisher, Affiant

SUSCRIBED AND SWORN before me this 3rd day of December, 2025.




Notary Public for the State of Montana
Residing at Busby, Big Horn
My commission expires May 25, 2026

AFFIDAVIT OF RYHAL ROWLAND

I, Ryhal Rowland, being first duly sworn, hereby declare as follows:

1. I am an adult member of the Northern Cheyenne community, and I have personal knowledge of the matters set forth in this Affidavit. If called to testify, I could and would testify truthfully to the facts stated herein.
2. This Affidavit is provided to support the Northern Cheyenne Tribal Council's request that the Bureau of Indian Affairs ("BIA"), investigate undue interference with the Tribe's legislative branch and selective or improper law enforcement actions connected to the events of September 11–12, 2025 and October 8, 2025.
3. The facts below are based on my direct observations, contemporaneous recollection, and my knowledge of recordings and documentation (including videos, photographs, and communications) that I personally observed, created, or reviewed in connection with these events.
4. In my understanding and based on what I observed and learned contemporaneously, individuals styling themselves as "chiefs" produced a written declaration on or about September 11, 2025, purporting to remove or disable the elected Tribal Council, related officers, employee and other staff associated with the Tribal Council. To my knowledge, this purported "removal" was not preceded by notice, hearing, or any Tribal Council vote consistent with the Northern Cheyenne Constitution.
5. On or about September 11, 2025, while individuals congregated outside the tribal building, I observed, and later reviewed related videos and photographs, indicating that law enforcement officers were present while a group associated with the so-called chiefs attempted to enter the building to serve the declaration.
6. On September 12, 2025, I understand there was a meeting at approximately 9:00 a.m. at the BIA agency office with Superintendent Andy Werk, attended by certain Council-related individuals and myself included. The meeting concerned the governance situation, including the declaration and that law enforcement was not responding appropriately when called.

7. On September 12, 2025, I observed that tensions escalated inside and around the tribal offices. I understand that lawyers were present or consulted, and that concerns were raised about safety. I also understand that individuals were harassed in the hallway and that the atmosphere became threatening.
8. I observed and understand that on September 12, 2025 certain individuals (including Council members) were surrounded or blocked in near their vehicles and were fearful of bodily injury. I understand law enforcement's response did not adequately protect those individuals at that time.
9. I understand that a significant number of officers were present around the September 11–12, 2025 timeframe and that the timing suggested advance planning, including the arrival of District 5 personnel from outside the immediate area. I observed information indicating District 5 leadership presence and coordination with persons aligned with the executive branch.
10. During this period, I observed and understood that BIA law enforcement (including Lieutenant Cordell Anthony) requested from tribal staff a list of security personnel associated with the Council and used that information to run names and arrest certain Council security personnel on warrants or probation matters. I did not observe the same enforcement posture applied to individuals acting as security for the executive branch, even though I understood some of those individuals also had warrants or legal issues.
11. I repeatedly understood BIA law enforcement to assert they could not “interfere,” yet I observed actions that had the practical effect of weakening the Council's ability to protect itself and function, while not applying equivalent scrutiny or enforcement to opposing actors.
12. Around September 25, 2025, I understand and observed events connected to the retrieval of payroll checks (including paper checks) and interactions with security aligned with the executive branch. I observed threatening and intimidating conduct, including being confronted and having law enforcement called for alleged trespass. I observed that law enforcement stated they would not “interfere” unless fighting occurred.

13. On October 8, 2025, I and others met at the mini mall in Lame Deer, discussed what would be done, and proceeded together to the tribal offices. Entry was accomplished without threats or force; I observed that no “bad words” were exchanged with security and no one told us we could not be there.
14. I observed that a key card (previously provided because another card was not working) was used to access the area and we proceeded into the Council wing to access offices.
15. I observed that law enforcement did not arrive immediately upon entry. I recall that a call was made at approximately 9:46 a.m., and officers appeared later—around 11:29 a.m.—meaning we were inside for approximately an hour and forty-five minutes before arrests began.
16. When law enforcement arrived, I observed that officers began arresting and handcuffing individuals without first asking questions, describing the alleged conduct with specificity, or providing an opportunity to comply with a lawful order to leave. I observed no meaningful on-scene investigation before arrests. It appeared to me that law enforcement was simply determined to make arrests.
17. I was told after release that there were multiple “complaints,” but I have not personally seen those complaints and I am not aware that they were disclosed to the accused individuals at the time of arrest.
18. Based on what I observed and later heard contemporaneously in the detention setting, I understand that jail staff had received information anticipating more arrestees than ultimately arrived, and that detainees believed space was being created in advance of arrests.
19. I observed statements and surrounding circumstances indicating that persons aligned with executive-branch security shut off power in the Council wing at approximately 11:07 a.m. and that individuals outside anticipated the arrests as an “event,” suggesting coordination and advance notice.
20. Nonresponse to Requests for Assistance. I observed and participated in efforts to communicate with BIA leadership to request assistance, clarity, and neutrality. In my

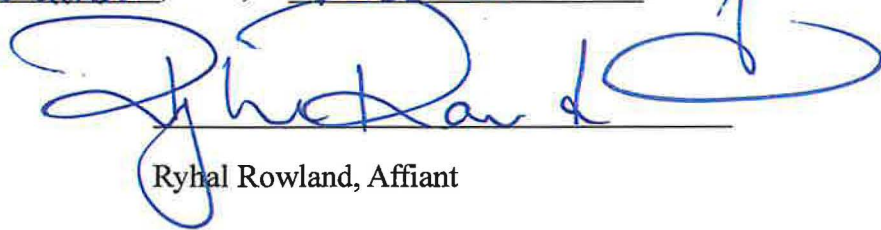
experience, communications were frequently not answered or were answered only selectively or belatedly.

23. I specifically recall that communications were directed to Charles Addington seeking engagement and/or intervention consistent with BIA's stated "non-interference" posture. I observed that initial communications did not receive a meaningful response; later, a call occurred, requests for paperwork were made, and follow-up thereafter was not provided in the manner requested.

24. Based on the above, I believe an investigation is warranted into whether BIA law enforcement: (a) selectively enforced laws or orders in a manner that disadvantaged the legislative branch; (b) coordinated directly or indirectly with political actors aligned with the executive branch; (c) failed to protect Council members and staff when they reported interference, threats, or unlawful occupation; and (d) arrested sitting Council members and related persons without adequate legal basis, notice, or even-handed application of standards.

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States of America that the foregoing is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

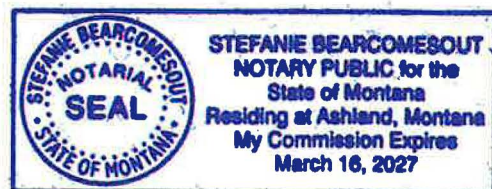
Executed this 4th day of December, 2025, at TMSFCU.


Ryhal Rowland, Affiant

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN to before me this 4th day of December, 2025.

Notary Public for the State of MT
My Commission Expires: X





AFFIDAVIT OF MELISSA LONEBEAR

I, Melissa Lonebear, being first duly sworn, hereby state as follows:

1. I am an adult member of the Northern Cheyenne Tribe. During the period described in this affidavit, I was a sitting, duly elected and seated member of the Northern Cheyenne Tribal Council. I make these statements based upon my personal knowledge, direct observations, and my best recollection.
2. I submit this affidavit in support of a request for BIA investigation into BIA law enforcement actions during the governance dispute, including the arrest and detention of sitting Council members and law enforcement actions that appeared to assist a rival faction in seizing control of Tribal government offices.
3. On or about September 11, 2025, there were significant tensions at the tribal building related to governance issues. A large group of individuals associated with the “chiefs” faction gathered outside and the situation was volatile. Council members faced intimidation and threats.
4. On September 12, 2025, Council members returned to the tribal building to perform official duties. We entered using access cards. A contracted security guard confronted us and asserted we were “removed” and did not belong in the building.
5. While Council members were inside, individuals outside pounded on windows and shouted. There were serious safety concerns. Calls were made to law enforcement requesting assistance. My understanding from the events described and our contemporaneous debrief is that law enforcement did not respond promptly to protect Council members during the period when the crowd was threatening the building and those inside.
6. After Council members exited, accusations were made that Council members were stealing “files.” Law enforcement attention appeared to focus on those accusations rather than on the earlier calls for protection. Those accusations were used, in my view, to justify enforcement actions against Council members.
7. By approximately September 25, 2025, Council members’ office belongings were being boxed and removed and, in some cases, placed outside. This conduct reinforced that Council members

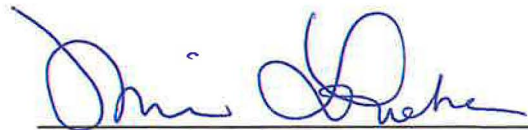
were being excluded from offices and that the opposing faction was attempting to control government space.

8. On October 8, 2025, I accompanied other Council members returning to the tribal building to perform official Council responsibilities. We anticipated confrontation due to prior harassment and the ongoing occupation/exclusion issues. Family members were present because of safety concerns.
9. At approximately 9:46 a.m., I placed a call to law enforcement requesting assistance. I made this call because we expected confrontation and sought a peaceful, safe return to the building for lawful officials. During the call, I was told officers were on the way.
10. At approximately 9:48 a.m., Council members entered through a magnetic-lock door using a key card. Soon after entry, supporters of the opposing faction gathered and appeared poised to confront and record Council members.
11. At approximately 9:59 a.m., BIA law enforcement arrived, including Chief Peter Rodriguez and Lieutenant Cordell Anthony. I observed a significant law enforcement presence, including multiple vehicles and a transport/holding vehicle described as a “paddy wagon.” This looked like an organized operation prepared for arrests rather than a protective response to ensure elected officials could safely perform duties.
12. Although I had requested assistance for peaceful access, the conduct that followed did not secure the building for the lawfully elected Council. Instead, after law enforcement arrived, officers met or gathered on the administrative side and did not act to restore Council access or disperse hostile groups outside.
13. After a period of time—approximately an hour or more after officers arrived—officers entered and arrested sitting Council members. The charge described was “governmental interference,” which I understand was associated with a new law-and-order code effective around October 1, 2025.
14. The arrest and removal of Council members and the continued exclusion from offices prevented the lawful Council from functioning. It worsened instability, empowered unlawful

actors occupying offices, and left elected Council members without access to the basic resources required to defend lawful governance and retain legal counsel.

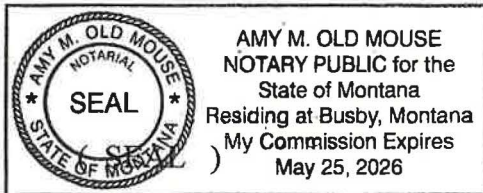
15. I request that the BIA investigate whether the arrests were supported by lawful authority and probable cause, whether BIA officers acted contrary to neutrality standards, and whether law enforcement actions improperly enabled one faction to seize and control government offices. I further request that the BIA immediately preserve all dispatch logs, body-worn camera footage (if any), in-car video, radio traffic, call recordings, incident reports, citations, booking records, and communications among officers and supervisors for the dates identified above.

DATED this 3rd day of December, 2025.



Melissa Lonebear, Affiant

SUSCRIBED AD SWORN before me this 3rd day of December, 2025.



Notary Public for the State of Montana
Residing at Busby, Big Horn
My commission expires May 25, 2026