



NORTHERN CHEYENNE TRIBAL COUNCIL

P.O. Box 128
LAME DEER, MONTANA 59043
(406) 477-8252
FAX (406) 477-8324



VIA E-mail

December 3, 2025

Jodi Camrud
Deputy Regional Director – Trust Services
Rocky Mountain Region, Bureau of Indian Affairs
2021 4th Ave. N.
Billings, MT 59101
jodi.camrud@bia.gov

Re: Response to November 29, 2025, Correspondence — Prior BIA Law Enforcement Intervention, Violation of Stated Non-Interference Policy, and Required Immediate Recognition

Deputy Regional Director Camrud:

The Northern Cheyenne Tribal Council acknowledges receipt of your correspondence dated November 29, 2025. The Bureau's refusal to meet and its continued invocation of "restraint" and "non-interference" cannot be reconciled with the record now before the Agency—nor with the Bureau's own recognition framework under *Goodface v. Grassrope*, 708 F.2d 335 (8th Cir. 1983). The BIA has already intervened through its law enforcement arm in a manner that materially altered the status quo, and the Northern Cheyenne Constitutional Court has issued a Final Order resolving core governance questions. Continued refusal to issue a recognition decision is neither neutrality nor restraint; it is abdication under the guise of restraint.

Your premise—that the Bureau must "defer to tribal mechanisms" and that questions "should be resolved" in tribal court—is also legally and structurally defective. The Bureau repeatedly demands "tribal remedies" while declining to identify any tribal forum with authority to provide the relief the Bureau implies is available. That posture collapses under the Tribe's controlling law and is now refuted by the Constitutional Court's own jurisdictional holdings.

In addition, the Bureau's posture ignores the single most important administrative reality: the BIA has already treated the sitting Council as the operative governing body for federal administrative purposes through the Tribe's duly enacted ordinances and the Bureau's prior dealings with the government seated under those ordinances. The Council's status as the seated legislative body

LITTLE WOLF AND MORNING STAR - Out of defeat and exile they led us back to Montana and won our Cheyenne homeland that we will keep forever.

(2024–2028 term) has not “changed” through any constitutionally valid removal process. There is no evidence—none—that any Council member was removed pursuant to Article VII of the Constitution. The Bureau cannot pretend that the government previously recognized through duly enacted ordinances somehow evaporated without notice, hearing, and a two-thirds vote by the Council itself.

The Tribe’s Constitution assigns the removal of Council members exclusively to the Tribal Council and imposes mandatory due process prerequisites. Article VII, Section 2 provides that removal may occur only by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Tribal Council after affording the accused member “a fair opportunity to be heard in his own defense.” It then specifies: “The decision of the Tribal Council shall be final.” That finality clause is not surplusage. It is a structural allocation of power to the Legislative Branch and an express non-reviewability directive.

The Tribe’s Revised Law & Order Code confirms the jurisdictional consequence of such constitutional finality. The Code provides that the Constitutional Court may not adjudicate constitutional claims to the extent a challenged enactment or decision is “explicitly designated as final and not subject to review” in controlling law, including the Tribe’s Constitution. Where the Constitution declares a decision final, the Constitutional Court lacks subject-matter jurisdiction to “review” it. Here, the due process and procedural prerequisites for a lawful Article VII removal were not satisfied. There was no notice, no hearing, and no vote by the Tribal Council—let alone a two-thirds vote. The only asserted basis for “removal” is a unilateral “declaration” by individuals styling themselves as “chiefs”—a body with no constitutional authority to remove Council members. Such a declaration is facially absurd and obviously cannot substitute for the constitutionally mandated process, cannot create an Article VII removal where none occurred, and cannot manufacture jurisdiction in the Constitutional Court.

The Bureau’s “go to tribal court” directive is not only wrong in principle; it is also unworkable in practice. The Northern Cheyenne Constitutional Court has already held—expressly and in a dismissal order—that it lacks jurisdiction over precisely the type of dispute the Bureau keeps insisting must be litigated there. In *Northern Cheyenne Tribal Council v. Chiefs of the Northern Cheyenne Tribe*, Cause No. CC-2026-002 (N. Cheyenne Const. Ct., Lama Deer, Montana), Judges Stephen T. Small, Michael A. Monson, and Adrian A. Miller entered an Order of Dismissal dated October 7, 2025, dismissing the Tribal Council’s complaint for lack of jurisdiction. The Court explained that it has jurisdiction over “Constitutional Claims” only where a party challenges whether a “resolution, ordinance, code, or other legislative enactment of the Tribal Council” is invalid; that the complaint did not involve such a claim; and that, notably, in a Constitutional Claim proceeding “the Tribal Council is required to be made a Party Defendant and is not the Plaintiff.” The Court further held that absent an ordinance, resolution, or code explicitly empowering the Constitutional Court to adjudicate the matter, it had no jurisdiction, and the case must be dismissed.

The Bureau’s posture therefore presents an unacceptable, Bureau-created ultimatum. The BIA insists the Council “pursue tribal remedies,” yet the Northern Cheyenne Constitutional Court has

already dismissed the Council's complaint precisely because the Court lacks jurisdiction when the Council is a plaintiff challenging the actions of other parties and when the dispute is not a "Constitutional Claim" as defined by the Code. Does the Bureau seriously contend that the lawful Council must repeatedly file cases that the tribal judiciary has already declared non-justiciable—only to be dismissed again—or else commence criminal or quasi-criminal enforcement actions against community members as the sole remaining "remedy" to regain access to its own offices? The BIA's refusal to issue a recognition decision forces the lawful legislative branch into either futile filings or punitive escalation. That is not "restraint." It is coercion by paralysis.

This conundrum is worsened by the Bureau's handling of the so-called Chiefs' Declaration. That declaration was submitted to the BIA. The Bureau has not issued a clear written decision expressly recognizing it. Yet the Bureau's law enforcement actions—arrests of sitting Council members and facilitation of displacement from offices—have created the practical effect of treating the declaration as operative while depriving the duly seated Council (recognized through duly enacted ordinances and longstanding administrative dealings) of the ability to function. If the Bureau intends to remain "neutral," it must act like it: neutrality requires refusing to implement, enforce, or operationalize the demands of an ultra vires declaration while simultaneously refusing to recognize the lawful governing body.

The Bureau's invocation of "non-interference" is especially untenable because BIA law enforcement has not remained neutral. As set forth in the attached affidavits of Melissa Fisher and Melissa Lonebear, sitting Council members were arrested and detained without lawful basis, and those actions materially aided unlawful actors in occupying or controlling governmental offices. This intervention stripped the lawful Council of access to offices, records, communications, and practical operational capacity. It also deprived the lawful Council of access to tribal resources necessary to retain counsel and protect the constitutional order. Having created this crisis through coercive law enforcement action, the Bureau cannot now disclaim responsibility and demand that the lawful Council locate money, offices, and legal capacity it has been denied—while a rival faction benefits from Bureau-caused displacement. The Bureau must correct the situation it destabilized.

The affidavits further describe a longstanding operational reality that the Bureau cannot ignore: BIA law enforcement has been repeatedly unresponsive to calls and complaints from the lawful Council and its members regarding interference with tribal governmental operations. Had the Bureau responded even-handedly and promptly to those calls—particularly where individuals were interfering with the Council's lawful duties and occupying government offices—the present escalation would not have occurred. The record thus reflects not only undue interference when the Bureau chose to act, but nonfeasance and non-responsiveness when action was requested to protect lawful governmental operations.

The Bureau's position also raises a question of basic consistency. If the Bureau's answer to this crisis is that the Council must initiate enforcement proceedings for "interference with tribal

government” against the individuals who issued the Chiefs’ Declaration and interfered with Council operations, then the Bureau must confront the obvious corollary: the same standard must apply to any actor—tribal or federal—whose conduct materially facilitated interference with the lawful legislative branch. The Council does not seek escalation. It does not want prosecutions against tribal members. It does not want a cycle of arrests. But the Bureau cannot force the Council into a punitive enforcement posture as the only “remedy” while insulating the Bureau’s own law enforcement conduct from scrutiny or consequence. If the Bureau forces the Council’s hand by continuing to refuse recognition and by continuing to operationalize displacement through law enforcement conduct, then the Bureau should expect the Council to pursue every remedy available—including enforcement complaints, administrative appeals, and external review—to protect the constitutional order.

There is also an unavoidable appearance problem the Bureau should not ignore. The Northern Cheyenne Tribe has previously been compelled to seek relief in federal court regarding chronic inadequacy in BIA law enforcement services on the Reservation, particularly staffing and response failures. Against that backdrop, it is profoundly troubling that the Bureau’s law enforcement presence becomes swift and concentrated when the mission is not public safety, but intervention in an intra-tribal political dispute and the arrest of sitting elected officials. Whether or not the Bureau claims benign motive, the optics are indefensible and will be scrutinized in any administrative or judicial review of the Bureau’s actions.

These facts trigger the very federal recognition duty the Bureau is attempting to evade. Under *Goodface v. Grassrope*, the BIA cannot avoid its responsibility by refusing to recognize any governing authority at all. Where there is a dispute, the BIA must recognize the last uncontested government on an interim basis pending tribal resolution, and once the tribal forum has resolved the dispute, the BIA must act consistently with that resolution. The Bureau’s refusal to issue a recognition decision—final or interim—creates an unlawful vacuum that prevents the Tribe’s government from functioning and prevents any aggrieved party from accessing meaningful administrative review.

For these reasons, the Council demands immediate written action. First, the BIA must issue a written recognition decision identifying the duly elected Tribal Council as the governing body for federal purposes, consistent with the Constitutional Court’s Final Order, the Council’s status throughout that litigation, and the absence of any evidence of Article VII removal. Alternatively, if the BIA asserts that a dispute persists notwithstanding the constitutional record and the Court’s rulings, the BIA must issue an interim recognition decision under *Goodface* identifying which governing body it will recognize pending final resolution. Indefinite refusal to recognize anyone is unlawful and forecloses meaningful IBIA review.

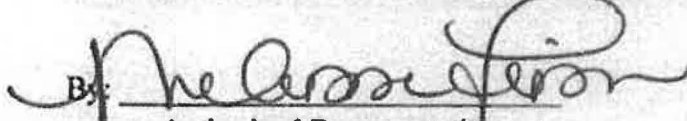
Finally, upon issuance of the recognition letter, BIA law enforcement must act consistently with that recognition decision—i.e., to assist in restoring access to offices and facilities to the recognized governing body and to prevent unlawful occupation or interference with governmental

demand that the BIA enforce the BIA's own recognition decision and refrain from repeating unlawful interference that produced the current paralysis.

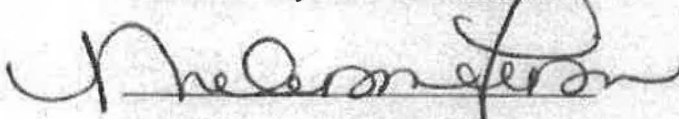
The Council requests your written response within forty-eight (48) hours of receipt, including the date on which the Bureau will issue its recognition determination. Absent prompt action, the Council will pursue all available remedies.

Respectfully,

NORTHERN CHEYENNE TRIBAL COUNCIL

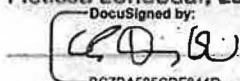
By: 
Authorized Representative
Phone: 406 720 0854
E-mail: melisfisher@gmail.com

Northern Cheyenne Tribal Council.

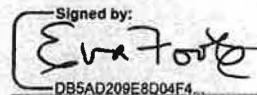

Melissa Fisher, Ashland District

Nizhoni Friesz, Lame Deer District

Melissa Lonebear, Lame Deer District

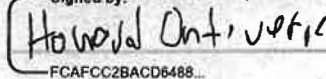

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Stefan Raining Bird, Busby District

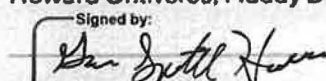
Signed by:

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Eva Foote, Ashland District

Donavin Limberhand, Lame Deer District


Signed by:
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Howard Ontiveros, Muddy District


Signed by:
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Gwen Spence, Birney District

Attachments: Affidavits of Melissa Fisher and Melissa Lonebear;
Order of Dismissal in CC-2026-002; and
Ordinances DOI-010 (2023) & DOI-008 (2025) sergeant

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.

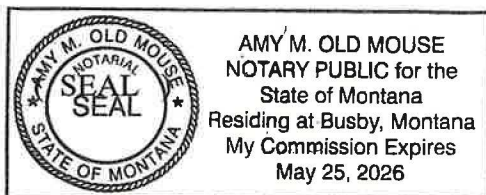
22. As a duly elected councilwoman who has never been removed, I do not understand how I can be charged with "governmental interference" while simply trying to occupy my office and doing my job unless the BIA took the side of Gene Small and the unlawful faction and recognized them as officials of the 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 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

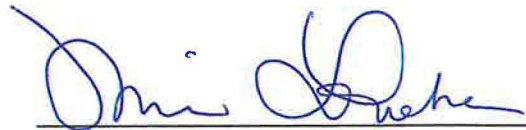
were being excluded from offices and that the opposing faction was attempting to control government space.

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.

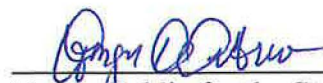
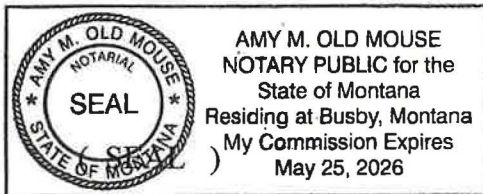
15. I request that the BIA investigate whether the arrests were supported by lawful authority and probable cause, whether BIA officers acted contrary to neutrality standards, and whether law enforcement actions improperly enabled one faction to seize and control government offices. I further request 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

IN THE NORTHERN CHEYENNE CONSTITUTIONAL COURT
OF AND FOR THE NORTHERN CHEYENNE TRIBE
LAME DEER, MONTANA

THE NORTHERN CHEYENNE
TRIBAL COUNCIL,

PLAINTIFF,

v.

CHIEFS OF THE NORTHERN
CHEYENNE TRIBE,

DEFENDANT.

)
) CAUSE NO. **CC 2026-0002**
)
)

) JUDGES:
)

) STEVEN T. SMALL
) MICHAEL A. MONSON
) ADRIAN A. MILLER
)
)

) **ORDER OF DISMISSAL**
)

Before the Court is Plaintiff's Complaint and Request for Declaratory Judgment Forthwith (the "Complaint") filed with the Northern Cheyenne Constitutional Court on October 2, 2025 and received by this Court the same day. According to Section 2.9.2 of the Law and Order Code (October 1, 2025), the Constitutional Court has exclusive and original jurisdiction over "Constitutional Claims," which are defined as claims between parties "that a resolution, ordinance, code or other legislative enactment of the Tribal Council ("Council Enactment") is in whole or in part invalid" because it violates specific

laws. In short, the Court has jurisdiction to determine whether a Council Enactment is valid or invalid. The Complaint does not involve a Constitutional Claim as defined in the Code because it is not a claim challenging a Council Enactment. Instead, the Tribal Council is the Plaintiff and is challenging actions of another party. Notably, for a Constitutional Court proceeding on a Constitutional Claim, the Tribal Council is required to be made a “party-defendant” and is not the plaintiff. Law and Order Code § 2.9.4(A).

Other than Constitutional Claims, the Constitutional Court only has jurisdiction over claims that the Tribal Council “by resolution, ordinance or code” in its absolute discretion explicitly empowers the Constitutional Court to adjudicate. Law and Order Code, § 2.9.9. No such resolution, ordinance, or code has been enacted here to give this Court jurisdiction over the Complaint. Accordingly, this Court does not have jurisdiction, and the Complaint is **DISMISSED**.

Dated this 6th day of October.



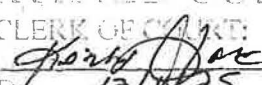
Steven T. Small
CHIEF APPELLATE JUDGE



Michael A. Monson
ASSOCIATE JUDGE

/s/ Adrian A. Miller

Adrian A. Miller
ASSOCIATE JUDGE

NORTHERN CHEYENNE COURT
CERTIFIED COPY
CLERK OF COURT:
BY: 
DATED: 12/14/25



**TRIBAL COUNCIL OF THE NORTHERN CHEYENNE TRIBE
NORTHERN CHEYENNE RESERVATION
LAME DEER, MONTANA**

ORDINANCE NO. DOI – 008 (2025)

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE NORTHERN CHEYENNE TRIBAL COUNCIL PROMULGATING
AND SEATING THE DULY ELECTED OFFICERS OF THE NORTHERN CHEYENNE TRIBE
FOR THE 2024-2028 TERM OF OFFICE**

WHEREAS, the Northern Cheyenne Tribal Council is the governing body of the Northern Cheyenne Reservation by the authority pursuant to the Amended Constitution and Bylaws of the Northern Cheyenne Tribe as approved by the Secretary of the Interior on May 31, 1996; and

WHEREAS, Article VI, Section 5 (f) of the Amended Constitution and Bylaws of the Northern Cheyenne Tribe states that the Tribal Council members shall be elected for the term of office specified in this Constitution and Bylaws and until his or her successors are sworn into office; and

WHEREAS, the November 5, 2024 Reservation-Wide General Election of the Northern Cheyenne Tribe, naming the winning candidates, has been certified by the duly appointed Election Judges in accordance with Ordinance No. 18 (96) which is the Election Ordinance; and

WHEREAS, on November 18, 2024 the newly elected Tribal Council Members of the Northern Cheyenne Tribe have formally taken their oath of office, sworn to by a Notary Public and Tribal Court Judge, in accordance with Ordinance No. 18 (96); and

WHEREAS, the Tribal President, Vice President and Council deem it necessary and appropriate to inform the Tribal Membership, subordinate and affiliated organizations of the Tribe, the Northern Cheyenne Agency Bureau of Indian Affairs, other Federally recognized Tribal Governments, and all State and Federal Government officials of the newly elected and duly seated members of the Northern Cheyenne Governing Body; now

THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED AND PROMULGATED that the following Northern Cheyenne Tribal Council Members, having been duly elected and sworn into office the four year terms, are now respectively seated as the political officers of the Governing Body of the Northern Cheyenne Tribe and Reservation:

1. Gene Small, President
2. Ernest Littlemouth, Sr., Vic-President
3. Melissa Fisher, Tribal Council Ashland District Representative
4. Howard Ontiveros, Tribal Council Muddy District Representative
5. Stefan Raining Bird, Tribal Council Busby District Representative
6. Theresa Small, Tribal Council Lame Deer District Representative
7. Gwen Spotted Horse, Tribal Council Birney District Representative
8. Curtis Elkshoulder Jr., Trial Judge
9. Justin David Roundstone, Trial Judge

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that all the above listed political officers of the Northern Cheyenne Tribe are hereby entitled to emoluments of their office and shall exercise their constitutional powers to perform their duties of office in service of the Northern Cheyenne Tribe and its members; and

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that the predecessors of all the aforementioned officers have concluded their terms of office and therefore no longer carry authority to represent the Northern Cheyenne Tribe in their former capacity; and

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that any prior Tribal Council resolutions that contradict or conflict with this Ordinance are hereby rescinded; and

BE IT FINALLY ORDAINED the following Northern Cheyenne Tribal members will continue to serve and be recognized as duly elected and seated political officers of the Governing Body for their 2024-2028 staggered terms of office in accordance with the Amended Constitution and Bylaws:

10. Gene Small, President
11. Ernest Littlemouth, Sr., Vic-President
12. Melissa Fisher, Tribal Council Ashland District Representative
13. Howard Ontiveros, Tribal Council Muddy District Representative
14. Stefan Raining Bird, Tribal Council Busby District Representative
15. Theresa Small, Tribal Council Lane Deer District Representative
16. Gwen Spotted Horse, Tribal Council Birney District Representative
17. Curtis Elkshoulder Jr., Trial Judge
18. Justin David Roundstone, Trial Judge

PASSED, ADOPTED AND APPROVED by the Northern Cheyenne Tribal Council by 10 votes for passage and adoption, 0 votes against passage and adoption, and 0 abstentions this 18th day of November 2024.

ATTEST:



Edina Redstar, Secretary
Northern Cheyenne Tribe



Gene Small, President
Northern Cheyenne Tribe

Noted:

**ADAM
WOLF**

Acting Superintendent

Digitally signed by
ADAM WOLF
Date: 2024.12.05
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United States Department of the Interior
Bureau of Indian Affairs
Northern Cheyenne Agency
P.O. Box 40
Lame Deer, MT 59043

IN REPLY REFER TO:
EXECUTIVE DIRECTION

Gene Small, President
Gene.Small@cheyennenation.com
Northern Cheyenne Tribe
P.O. Box 128
Lame Deer, MT 59043

Dear President Small:

This is in reference to Northern Cheyenne Tribal Council Ordinance No. DOI-008 (2025) enacted on November 18, 2024 and received on December 4, 2024.

Ordinance No. DOI-008 (2025) promulgating and seating the duly elected officers of the Northern Cheyenne Tribe for the 2024-2028 term of office.

Ordinance No. DOI-008 (2025) is hereby noted. The Northern Cheyenne Tribal Council has the authority to take this action pursuant to Article IV, Section 1 (r) of the Amended Constitution and Bylaws of the Northern Cheyenne Tribe.

Pursuant to Article IV, Section 4 of the Amended Constitution and Bylaws of the Northern Cheyenne Tribe, the Superintendent has authority to respond to said ordinance.

All necessary copies of this ordinance have been retained for our files.

Sincerely,

ADAM
WOLF

Digitally signed
by ADAM WOLF
Date: 2024.12.05
16:05:08 -07'00'

Acting Superintendent

Enclosure

**TRIBAL COUNCIL OF THE NORTHERN CHEYENNE TRIBE
NORTHERN CHEYENNE RESERVATION
LAME DEER, MONTANA**

ORDINANCE NO. DOI – 010 (2023)

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE NORTHERN CHEYENNE TRIBAL COUNCIL PROMULGATING
AND SEATING THE DULY ELECTED OFFICERS OF THE NORTHERN CHEYENNE TRIBE
FOR THE 2022-2026 TERM OF OFFICE**

WHEREAS, the Northern Cheyenne Tribal Council is the governing body of the Northern Cheyenne Reservation by the authority pursuant to the Amended Constitution and Bylaws of the Northern Cheyenne Tribe as approved by the Secretary of the Interior on May 31, 1996; and

WHEREAS, Article VI, Section 5 (f) of the Amended Constitution and Bylaws of the Northern Cheyenne Tribe states that the Tribal Council members shall be elected for the term of office specified in this Constitution and Bylaws and until his or her successors are sworn into office; and

WHEREAS, the November 8, 2022 Reservation-Wide General Election of the Northern Cheyenne Tribe, naming the winning candidates, has been certified by the duly appointed Election Judges in accordance with Ordinance No. 18 (96) which is the Election Ordinance; and

WHEREAS, on November 21, 2022 the newly elected Tribal Council Members of the Northern Cheyenne Tribe have formally taken their oath of office, sworn to by a Notary Public and Tribal Court Judge, in accordance with Ordinance No. 18 (96); and

WHEREAS, the Tribal President, Vice President and Council deem it necessary and appropriate to inform the Tribal Membership, subordinate and affiliated organizations of the Tribe, the Northern Cheyenne Agency Bureau of Indian Affairs, other Federally recognized Tribal Governments, and all State and Federal Government officials of the newly elected and duly seated members of the Northern Cheyenne Governing Body; now

THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED AND PROMULGATED that the following Northern Cheyenne Tribal Council Members, having been duly elected and sworn into office the four year terms, are now respectively seated as the political officers of the Governing Body of the Northern Cheyenne Tribe and Reservation:

1. Eva Foote, Tribal Council Ashland District Representative
2. Torrey Davie, Tribal Council Busby District Representative
3. Donavin Limberhand, Jr., Tribal Council Lame Deer District Representative
4. Melissa Lonebear, Tribal Council Lame Deer District Representative
5. Nizhoni Friesz, Tribal Council Lame Deer District Representative

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that all the above listed political officers of the Northern Cheyenne Tribe are hereby entitled to emoluments of their office and shall exercise their constitutional powers to perform their duties of office in service of the Northern Cheyenne Tribe and its members; and

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that the predecessors of all the aforementioned officers have concluded their terms of office and therefore no longer carry authority to represent the Northern Cheyenne Tribe in their former capacity; and

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that any prior Tribal Council resolutions that contradict or conflict with this Ordinance are hereby rescinded; and

BE IT FINALLY ORDAINED the following Northern Cheyenne Tribal members will continue to serve and be recognized as duly elected and seated political officers of the Governing Body for their 2022-2026 staggered terms of office in accordance with the Amended Constitution and Bylaws:

1. Eva Foote, Tribal Council Ashland District Representative
2. Torrey Davie, Tribal Council Busby District Representative
3. Donavin Limberhand, Jr., Tribal Council Lane Deer District Representative
4. Melissa Lonebear, Tribal Council Lane Deer District Representative
5. Nizhoni Friesz, Tribal Council Lane Deer District Representative

PASSED, ADOPTED AND APPROVED by the Northern Cheyenne Tribal Council by 10 votes for passage and adoption, 0 votes against passage and adoption, and 0 abstentions this 21st day of November 2022.



Ernest Littlemouth, Sr., Acting President
Northern Cheyenne Tribe

ATTEST:



Alicia Cano, Acting Secretary
Northern Cheyenne Tribe

Noted:

ANDREW WERK Digitally signed by ANDREW WERK
Date: 2022.11.30 16:04:53 -07'00'

Superintendent