



Pawnee Nation of Oklahoma

RESOLUTION #21-40
JUNE 5, 2021

RESOLUTION

- Whereas,** The Pawnee Business Council is the supreme governing body of the Pawnee Nation and is authorized to conduct business on behalf of the Pawnee Nation in accordance with Article IV, Sections 1 and 2 of the Pawnee Nation Constitution and By-Laws; and
- Whereas,** the Pawnee Business Council met in special session on June 5, 2021, at the Pawnee Nation Ceremonial Roundhouse, duly authorized, with a quorum present; and
- Whereas,** the Pawnee Nation recognizes it is imperative to protect, preserve, and revitalize its Native Language to connect its past with its succeeding generations; and
- Whereas,** the Pawnee language (Pari Pakuru') is of supreme importance to the Pawnee Nation. The Native tongue of our forebearers is our legacy, handed down from times immemorial. For millennia, our language has served as a pillar of our identity; the wellspring for our culture, cosmology, ceremonies; the glue that binds our people into one Nation; and a cornerstone of our cultural sovereignty. Without language, no Tribal Nation can endure as a culturally distinct Indigenous People; and
- Whereas,** Fishman's 8-level Graded Intergenerational Disruption Scale (GIDS) has served as the seminal and best-known evaluative framework of language endangerment for nearly two decades, an amplified and elaborated evaluative scale of 13 levels, the E(xpanded) GIDS has been used to identify the current level of our Pawnee language; and
- Whereas,** the Pawnee language being at a Level 9 (Dormant) according to the EGIDS which is increasingly common among languages that have gone out of use fairly recently; and
- Whereas,** the Pawnee Business Council being concerned that at a Level 9 amounts to an emergency situation: At the same time the Pawnee Business Council is confident the Pawnee Nation has all the ingredients to preserve our language if we are able to obtain and deploy more resources for our language and remove any barriers to bringing the language program to the next level; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the Pawnee Business Council does hereby acknowledge the current state of our language and the urgency of preserving and revitalizing our Pari Pakuru' for future generations to come. In response to this urgency, the Pawnee Business Council does hereby issue the Pawnee Nation Declaration of a State of Emergency for the Pawnee Nation Language.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, in response to this Declaration of a State of Emergency, a Language Advisory Committee will be developed to assist in strengthening the Pawnee Nation's efforts to preserve and revitalize our language.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Pawnee Business Council will work to remove any obstacles that may impede the efforts put forth to promote and improve the status of our Pari Pakuru'.

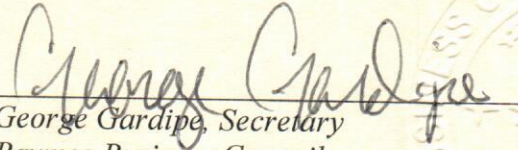
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, it is the desire of the Pawnee Nation to once again see our Pawnee people communicate through the means of written and oral transmission and return to a state of proficiency of our Native Language.

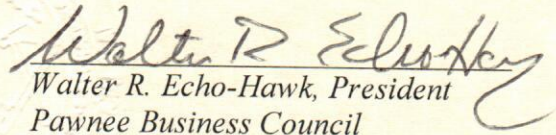
CERTIFICATION

I, George Gardipe, Secretary of the Pawnee Business Council, certify that a Special Meeting of the Pawnee Business Council was held on the 5th day of June 2021 and that the Pawnee Business Council is composed of eight members, of whom 8 were present, 0 absent, compromising a quorum, and the foregoing resolution was duly adopted by a vote of 7 for, 0 against, 0 abstaining, and 1 not voting.

Signed this 5th day of June 2021

ATTEST:


George Gardipe, Secretary
Pawnee Business Council


Walter R. Echo-Hawk, President
Pawnee Business Council

