



Seneca County

Office of the County Attorney

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WATERLOO, NEW YORK 13165
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David K. Ettman
County Attorney

Christopher D. Lucchesi
Assistant County Attorney

November 4, 2021

Office of the Attorney General
28 Liberty Street
New York, NY 10005
ATTN: Personal Service

Re: Request for Independent Investigation

Dear Attorney General James:

At the direction of the Seneca County Board of Supervisors, by resolution of the Board (enclosed), I am writing to you to request that an investigation by independent counsel or by your office into the investigation, circumstances, and prosecution of Mr. Charles Bowman, as well as the status of the Cayuga Indian Nation Police, and other matters pertinent thereto. These other matters may also include the relationship between the Cayuga Indian Nation Police and law enforcement agencies of the state. This request is made to you under the authority of Executive Law § 63(2) and (8), which reads in part...

"Whenever in his judgment the public interest requires it, the attorney-general may, with the approval of the governor, and when directed by the governor, shall, inquire into matters concerning the public peace, public safety and public justice."

At 3:00 a.m., on February 22, 2020, a paramilitary force, under the leadership of federally designated tribal representative Clint Halftown, were directed to enter and gain possession of buildings and businesses located in the Town of Seneca Falls, then occupied by other members of the Cayuga Nation not aligned with Mr. Halftown.

The following weekend, in what started as a peaceful protest by both tribal members not affiliated with Halftown, and their community supporters, turned into a violent melee. Several protesters were alleged to have been beaten and "hauled away" by the Cayuga Nation security force.

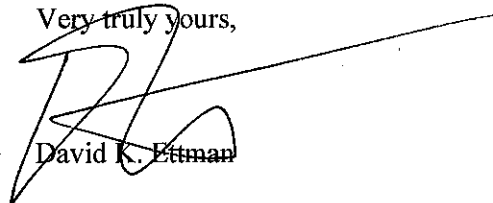
Despite calls by local governments and Senator Schumer for a full investigation of the role of the Cayuga Nation Police and their jurisdiction, nothing has occurred. And after the local investigation of any possible crimes occurring during the protest, the Seneca County Grand Jury issued only a misdemeanor indictment against local resident Charles Bowman, not a member of the Cayuga Nation, or any Native American group. It has been more than 75 days since the indictment, and the matter is still pending the Town Court.

The Board seeks an independent review of all the facts and circumstances related to both February 2020 incidents, and the interaction with the federal, state and local officials, which has apparently led to only one local prosecution and no action by the Cayuga Indian Nation.

The Governor's Office has been advised of this request and a request that you be directed to take on this investigation.

Please contact my office for further details or to address any questions relevant to this request.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'DKE', with a long horizontal line extending from the end of the signature.

David K. Ettman

DKE/jmy

Cc: Robert W. Hayssen, Chairman, Board of Supervisors

Encl.

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS SENECA COUNTY

Waterloo, New York 13165

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS REQUEST INVESTIGATION BY NEW YORK STATE ATTORNEY GENERALS OFFICE

RESOLUTION NO. 238-21, moved by Sprvr. Garlick Lorenzetti, second by Sprvr. Lott and adopted by 517 ayes (Garlick Lorenzetti, Lott, Reynolds, Barnhart, Borst, Kronenwetter, Hayssen, Trout, and Cleere); 176 nays (Brownell, Hayes, Ferrara, and McGreevy); and 57 not present (Enslow).

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors has been petitioned by a county constituent to address apparent questions of conflict of interests involving the Seneca County District Attorney and charges brought against Charles Bowman involving conduct on land controlled by the Cayuga Indian Nation; and

WHEREAS, there is continuing conflict of opinion as to the legal status of the Cayuga Indian Nation in the community; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Seneca County Board of Supervisors directs the Seneca County Attorney to write to the New York State Attorney General seeking their investigation of the situation and circumstances of Mr. Bowman and the Cayuga Indian Nation Police, and other matters pertinent thereto.

I do hereby certify that I have compared the preceding with the original thereof, on file in the Office of the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors at Waterloo, New York, and that the same is a correct transcript therefrom and of the whole of said original; and that said original was duly adopted at a regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors of Seneca County held at Ovid, New York on the 12 day of October 2021.

STATE OF NEW YORK
County of Seneca



Margaret E. Li
2021.10.15 11:15:30 -04'00'

Margaret E. Li, Clerk, Board of Supervisors
Seneca County, Waterloo, New York 13165

Given under my hand and official seal _____