

**RESOLUTION calling for the Town Board of Enfield, Tompkins County, New York to request the New York State Attorney General's Office to investigate in the interests of justice and public safety certain actions taken against persons and property by authorities representing the indigenous Cayuga Nation**

RESOLUTION #2021\_\_\_\_\_

**WHEREAS**, the Enfield Town Board recognizes its legal and moral obligation to ensure that the laws of this State and Nation are fairly, fully and faithfully enforced, and that those laws are applied equally within society without taint of bias, and that this Board's moral obligation may at times extend to jurisdictions beyond its own borders; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Enfield takes official notice of an incident on February 22, 2020 in which persons allegedly operating at the behest of Clint Halftown, self-proclaimed leader of the indigenous Cayuga Nation, without authority or provocation, destroyed during the dead of night Cayuga Nation properties in the town of Seneca Falls, Seneca County, New York, leveling as many as twelve buildings including a schoolhouse, day care center, general store, gas station, cannery and cabin dwellings, all used by Cayuga Nation residents; and

**WHEREAS**, on February 29, 2020, seven days later, during a violent altercation that followed a press conference on Cayuga Nation property, a non-Indigenous resident, Charles Bowman, was injured by officers of the Cayuga Nation Police Department, police officers purportedly under Clint Halftown's direction; and

**WHEREAS**, with neither the February 22, 2020 incident nor with a subsequent physical altercation between Clint Halftown's Cayuga Nation Police Department and Charles Bowman, has the Seneca County District Attorney's Office, District Attorney Mark Sinkiewicz, or any local law enforcement agency taken effective, responsible, or meaningful actions to hold Clint Halftown, his associates, or the Cayuga Nation Police Department responsible for their alleged crimes; and

**WHEREAS**, Seneca County law enforcement's only response to date has been for a Seneca County Grand Jury to indict Charles Bowman on criminal misdemeanor charges for the February 29, 2020 incident; and

**WHEREAS**, on November 8, 2021, Seneca County District Attorney Mark Sinkiewicz, in response to an Enfield Town Councilperson's question, confirmed that, "There was not a Grand Jury action taken for the February destruction of the buildings;" and

**WHEREAS**, on October 12, 2021, the Seneca County Board of Supervisors requested the New York State Attorney General's Office to undertake an investigation into "the situation and circumstances of Mr. Bowman and the Cayuga Nation Police and other matters pertinent thereto;" and

**WHEREAS**, the Cayuga Nation and Seneca County, a county adjacent to its own, stand in close proximity to the Town of Enfield so as to deem this Town Board's action appropriate; and

**WHEREAS**, the Enfield Town Board has concluded that, based on the totality of the circumstances, Seneca County law enforcement officials; including its District Attorney, Mark Sinkiewicz, stand unduly compromised, conflicted, disinterested, or unwilling to perform their sworn official responsibilities in upholding the law to protect property rights and public safety affecting either Indigenous or non-Indigenous residents in this matter; therefore be it

**RESOLVED**, that the Enfield Town Board joins the Seneca County Board of Supervisors in requesting that the New York State Attorney General and her staff intervene in this matter through appointment of a special prosecutor and undertake a thorough investigation into the actions by Clint Halftown, the Cayuga Nation, and its Police Department, not only with regards to the February 29, 2020 altercation between the Cayuga Nation Police Department and Charles Bowman, but also regarding the February 22, 2020 destruction of Cayuga Nation properties, and all incidents related thereto; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that a copy of this Resolution shall be sent to the following officials:

The Hon. Letitia James, New York State Attorney General

Mark Sinkiewicz, District Attorney, Seneca County, NY

The Hon. Robert Hayssen, Chairman, Seneca County Board of Supervisors

The Hon. Leslyn McBean-Clairborne, Chair, Tompkins County Legislature