

Cherokee Council House

Cherokee, North Carolina

DATE: _____

Resolution No. _____ (2025)

WHEREAS: in 2015 the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians began a nine-year partnership with the Western North Carolina YMCA to assist with the construction and development of an affordable, overnight residential camp in Swain County (Camp Watia) to serve our region's children and;

WHEREAS: the Western North Carolina YMCA is a non-profit organization that relies on donations and grants to fund their many community outreach programs and is committed to strengthening the foundations of community through programming that supports youth development, healthy living, and social responsibility. Their programs nurture the greatness in every child, promote well-being through the community, and give back to our neighbors in need. All this work is rooted in their four-core values of caring, honesty, respect, and responsibility and;

WHEREAS: Camp Watia is a co-ed overnight camp community committed to these core values and traditional camp programming such as archery, sports, boating, swimming, arts, and crafts as well as specialized enrichment programming that includes STEM curriculum, sustainability education, cultural awareness and environmental studies provided for campers and;

WHEREAS: these activities are proven to build a nurturing foundation where children learn, take risks, and feel a sense of belonging within a supportive setting, while growing to appreciate, honor and care for the precious land where YMCA Camp Watia is located and;

WHEREAS: camp programming focuses on increasing confidence and self-esteem, social skills, and leadership qualities, while decreasing the detrimental effects of summer learning loss and cultivating strong friendships with diverse children from all over Western North Carolina, and;

WHEREAS: the YMCA Camp Watia seeks to continue their partnership with the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians and;

WHEREAS: YMCA Camp Watia was established to serve all children in Western North Carolina, and that all children ages seven (7) through seventeen (17) have an opportunity to attend camp if they should desire. With this continued partnership YMCA Camp Watia will assure that a minimum of 25 of all enrolled spots each summer will be prioritized for youth who are members of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Tribal Council of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians in Council assembled at which a quorum is present that Tribal Council continue their partnership and financial support of Camp Watia by donating \$20,000.00 for camp scholarships for the next two years.

37 BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the Principal Chief of the Eastern Band of the Cherokee Indians is
38 authorized to carry out the intent of this resolution which shall remain in effect until the full amount has
39 been remitted, and that this resolution shall become effective upon ratification by the Principal Chief.

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41 Submitted by: Megan Stamper, EBCI Community Development Coordinator on behalf of YMCA Camp
42 Watia