

CHEROKEE COUNCIL HOUSE
CHEROKEE, QUALLA BOUNDARY, NC

Date: _____

RESOLUTION NO. _____ (2025)

*A resolution to exclude Rafael Delga Santiago from the lands of the
Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians.*

- WHEREAS, the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians ("EBCI" or "Tribe") has the sovereign authority to exclude persons from lands of the Eastern Band to protect the integrity, law and order of the lands, and the welfare of Tribal members; and
- WHEREAS, the Tribal Council has codified its authority to exclude persons from the lands of the Eastern Band at Chapter 2 of the Cherokee Code; and
- WHEREAS, the power to exclude is an inherent and essential part of Tribal sovereignty that is indispensable to the Tribe's autonomy and self-governance; and
- WHEREAS, RAFAEL DELGA SANTIAGO (Date of Birth: 11/03/1987) is not a member of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, but is said to be residing in and around the Qualla Boundary; and
- WHEREAS, SANTIAGO has a lengthy criminal history that includes charges for Trespassing, Sale of Counterfeit Substances, Possession of Controlled Substance, Burglary, Grand Theft, Possession of Methamphetamine, Battery, and Probation Violations; and
- WHEREAS, SANTIAGO'S Current Charges in Jackson County, NC include Felony Assault with Serious Bodily Injury and Misdemeanor Assault with a deadly weapon; and
- WHEREAS, SANTIAGO was involved in an incident on the Qualla Boundary on 12/27/2024 where the victim, Jorge Rodriguez was stabbed almost 20 times in multiple places on his body by SANTIAGO and two other males; and
- WHEREAS, SANTIAGO does not appear to have any legitimate business upon the Qualla Boundary and poses a threat to the health, welfare, and safety to the members of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians and the EBC in its entirety; and
- NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Tribal Council, in Council assembled with a quorum present, and with the number of votes required by Tribal law, RAFAEL DELGA SANTIAGO is hereby PERMANENTLY EXCLUDED from all Tribal lands and is hereby notified and ordered to vacate all tribal lands.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this permanent exclusion prohibits
RAFAEL DELGA SANTIAGO from entering or being present on Tribal
lands for any purpose except as required by Tribal Council or Tribal Court.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that if RAFAEL DELGA SANTIAGO is found improperly on
Tribal lands at any time after the effective date of this resolution, he shall be
treated as a trespasser and appropriate legal action shall be taken against him.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that all resolutions inconsistent with this resolution are rescinded,
and that this resolution shall become effective when ratified by the Principal
Chief.

Submitted by Chief of Police Carla Neadeau.