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**CHEROKEE COUNCIL HOUSE
CHEROKEE, NORTH CAROLINA**

Date: _____

RESOLUTION NO. _____ (2026)

A resolution authorizing the Tribe to accept a donation of deeded property known as "Fort Butler Park" from the Town of Murphy in Cherokee County, North Carolina.

WHEREAS, the Town of Murphy property in Cherokee County, North Carolina, commonly known as "Fort Butler Park and Historical Site", on Fort Butler Street in the Town of Murphy and is in the vicinity of where Fort Butler was located; and

WHEREAS, the Cherokee Nation and the United States entered into the Treaty of New Echota in 1835 and as a result, in 1836, the military authorities of the United States established headquarters near Valley River, at that time known as Camp Huntington, which later became known as "Fort Butler"; and

WHEREAS, Fort Butler served as the military headquarters of the Eastern Division of the U.S. Army when that Division was instructed to carry out the forcible removal of the Cherokee People in 1838 and it was at Fort Butler that the Cherokee people were detained before being forcibly removed from their ancestral homelands on the Trail of Tears; and

WHEREAS, during the early summer of 1838, over 3,000 Cherokees were marched from Fort Butler on the Unicoi Turnpike to Fort Armistead in Tennessee, and from there to camps near present-day Charleston, Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, the Tarheel Investment Company in 1925 sold and conveyed the title of Fort Butler to the Town of Murphy for the purposes of a public park and a historical monument; and

WHEREAS, on July 6, 2026, the Board of Commissioners of the Town of Murphy passed a resolution to donate and convey "Fort Butler Park" to the Tribe; and

WHEREAS, the resolution states that the land should be conveyed to the EBCI without consideration for the use by the EBCI as it may deem proper; and

WHEREAS, on July 15, 2026, the Town of Murphy recorded a warranty deed at Book 1805, Page 941, Cherokee County Register of Deeds, conveying the property to the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians; and

WHEREAS, the 1925 Fort Butler deed to the Town of Murphy and the resolution passed by the Board of Commissioners of the Town of Murphy conveying "Fort Butler Park" to the EBCI are attached; and

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2 WHEREAS, the historical significance of the property to the Tribe is well established, and the
3 Tribe desires to accept this important conveyance from the Town of Murphy.
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5 NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Tribal Council of the Eastern Band of Cherokee
6 Indians, in Council assembled, at which a quorum is present, that the Tribe is
7 authorized to accept from the Town of Murphy, North Carolina, the property known
8 as "Fort Butler Park", as identified in that resolution passed by the Board of
9 Commissioners of the Town of Murphy dated July 6, 2026, and described in that
10 the warranty deed recorded at Book 1805, Page 941, Cherokee County Register of
11 Deeds.
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13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Principal Chief is authorized to approve and execute the
14 documents necessary to effectuate this donation to the Tribe.
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16 BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that this resolution shall become effective when it is ratified by
17 the Principal Chief.
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19 *Submitted by Michell Hicks, Principal Chief.*