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**CHEROKEE COUNCIL HOUSE
CHEROKEE, NORTH CAROLINA**

Date: _____

RESOLUTION NO. _____ (2025)

A resolution to authorize and request the development of a single EBCI database of information and cases concerning Missing and Murdered Indigenous People (MMIP).

WHEREAS, the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians (EBCI) is a sovereign tribal nation dedicated to the protection, safety, and well-being of its tribal members; and

WHEREAS, indigenous communities, including the EBCI, have been disproportionately affected by the crisis of Missing and Murdered Indigenous People (MMIP), with many cases going unreported, uninvestigated, or unresolved due to jurisdictional barriers and gaps in data collection; and

WHEREAS, the absence of an official MMIP database for the EBCI has led to fragmented, inconsistent, and incomplete records, making it difficult for families, law enforcement, and advocacy organizations to get accurate and up-to-date information; and

WHEREAS, relying on multiple, uncoordinated data sources, as we do now, creates confusion, delays responses, and hinders investigative efforts; and

WHEREAS, a single, official MMIP database that consolidates all relevant information in one secure and reliable platform will serve as the centralized source for tracking missing and murdered individuals, and will improve case management, response efforts, and accountability; and

WHEREAS, by creating and managing the database, the EBCI can ensure that measures are in place to protect tribal sovereignty, cultural sensitivity, privacy expectations, and law enforcement protocols; and

WHEREAS, the EBCI desires to make the development of an MMIP database a collaborative effort by and between the Office of the Principal Chief, the Office of Information Technology, the Cherokee Indian Police Department, and other key stakeholders.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Tribal Council of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, in Council assembled, and with a quorum present, that the Tribe will establish a single, official Missing and Murdered Indigenous People (MMIP) database, to:

- 1 1. Consolidate MMIP case data into a single database to ensure consistency,
2 accuracy, and accessibility.
- 3 2. Provide law enforcement, emergency services, and legal authorities with a
4 centralized system for case tracking and coordination.
- 5 3. Offer a clear, centralized resource for families seeking updates, assistance, and
6 advocacy.
- 7 4. Improve data collection, reporting, and transparency to drive policy changes
8 and resource allocation.
- 9 5. Prevent MMIP cases from being lost or forgotten, by maintaining accurate and
10 updated records in a single platform.

11 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Office of the Principal Chief, with assistance from the
12 Office of Information Technology, the Cherokee Indian Police Department, and
13 other key stakeholders, are authorized and requested to develop, implement, and
14 maintain the EBCI MMIP database, and shall do so in a manner that protects
15 tribal sovereignty, complies with legal standards, and follows best practices in
16 data management.

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

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22 *Submitted by Principal Chief Mitchell Hicks.*