

Date: OCT 30 2025

RESOLUTION NO. 27 (2025)

A resolution to provide for transparency in tribal governance

WHEREAS, In Cherokee Code Chapter 132 – Public Records, Section 2. Findings and Purpose, subsection A and B, reads as follows:

- (a) The Tribe finds that it is vital in a democratic society that public business be performed in an open and public manner. Toward this end, provisions of this Chapter must be construed so as to make it possible for members of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, or their representatives, to have access to public records at a minimum cost and with minimum delay to the persons seeking access.
- (b) Members and their representatives have a right to know the basis of the formulation of public policy. Therefore, it is the public policy of this Tribe that members shall be advised of the performance of public officials and of the decisions that are reached in public activity.

WHEREAS, Tribal Council passed Resolution 308 (2020) that updated the reporting criteria and template for annual reports from tribal programs; and

WHEREAS, There is currently no requirement or mechanism that requires the Principal Chief, Vice Chief, or Tribal Council to provide a monthly or annual report of official business activities; and

WHEREAS, Tribal members have routinely asked for greater transparency in tribal government from elected officials.

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 the Tribal Council hereby require the Principal Chief, Vice Chief, and Tribal Council to produce a monthly and annual report for dissemination to tribal news media outlets, community clubs, and the general EBCI constituency.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the monthly report contain the minimum information, but not limited to:

1 **1. Attendance and Participation**

- 2 a. Attendance record for regular and special Tribal Council sessions.
- 3 b. Attendance at assigned committee meetings and other official engagements.
- 4 c. Participation in community club meetings or district-level gatherings in an
- 5 official capacity.

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7 **2. Legislative and Policy Activity**

- 8 a. List of resolutions and ordinances sponsored or co-sponsored.
- 9 b. Voting record for Tribal Council and committee actions.
- 10 c. Summary of legislative initiatives, priorities, or policy matters pursued.

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12 **3. Official Travel and Engagements**

- 13 a. Date, location, and purpose of official travel.
- 14 b. Summary of outcomes, agreements, or follow-up actions from official
- 15 travel.

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17 **4. Constituent and Community Engagement**

- 18 a. Summary of community meetings, events, or tribal program engagements
- 19 attended in official capacity.

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21 **5. Executive or Administrative Updates (for Principal and Vice Chief)**

- 22 a. Summary of departmental meetings, directives issued, and
- 23 intergovernmental coordination efforts.
- 24 b. Updates on implementation of Council-enacted initiatives or executive
- 25 actions.

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27 **6. Financial and Ethical Transparency**

- 28 a. Summary of official travel expenditures and discretionary fund use (general
- 29 categories only).
- 30 b. Completed Gifts, Donations, and Contributions Attestation Form, as
- 31 required quarterly by existing policy, incorporated into the appropriate
- 32 monthly report.
- 33 c. Disclosure of any waiver requests or approvals under Cherokee Code
- 34 Section 117-45.5, "Waivers from Standards of Ethical Conduct." The
- 35 disclosure shall include the date of the waiver request, the granting authority,
- 36 and the stated reason, but shall not include confidential information protected
- 37 by law.
- 38 d. Disclosure of any conflicts of interest managed in accordance with the
- 39 Ethics Ordinance.

40 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the annual report shall serve as a comprehensive

41 summary of the year's official activities, accomplishments, and priorities of the

42 Principal Chief, Vice Chief, and Tribal Council. This report shall be developed

1 in coordination with the annual reports submitted by Tribal Programs to provide
2 a complete picture of governmental operations and progress, and shall be made
3 available to tribal members through the same public dissemination channels as
4 the monthly reports.
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6 BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that all resolutions inconsistent with this resolution are hereby
7 rescinded, that this resolution shall become effective upon ratification by the
8 Principal Chief, and that the Principal Chief be authorized to carry out the intent of
9 this resolution, which shall remain in effect until implemented or rescinded.
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11 *Submitted by:* Joseph Owle, Wolf Town Community
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