

CHEROKEE COUNCIL HOUSE
CHEROKEE, NORTH CAROLINA

Date: SEP 07 2023

RESOLUTION NO. 730 (2023)

A resolution to adopt the Ethics Investigation Report dated August 3, 2023, issued by the Office of Internal Audit and Ethics in Case No. 2023-1-63, regarding Jeremy Wilson, and imposing sanctions.

WHEREAS, Section 2.3 of the Charter and Governing Document authorizes and empowers Tribal Council to enforce obedience to Tribal laws; and

WHEREAS, the Tribe's ethics ordinance, codified at C.C. Sec. 117-45.1 to 117-45.3, requires Tribal officials (defined as persons elected or appointed to their position), to abide by certain rules of conduct; and

WHEREAS, in response to a written complaint properly filed with the Office of Internal Audit and Ethics on January 25, 2023, that office performed an investigation into the conduct of Jeremy Wilson who, at all times relevant to the allegations in the complaint, was a Tribal official; and

WHEREAS, in summary, the complaint alleged that during the period beginning in November 2021, and ending on August 3, 2022, when his appointment was terminated by the Principal Chief, Mr. Wilson violated the ethics ordinance when he attempted to solicit money and personal favors, for his own personal gain, from Sovereign Solutions Carolina, LLC, a contractor of the Tribe; and

WHEREAS, during the period in question, Mr. Wilson was serving as the Tribe's Governmental Affairs Liaison (an appointed position) and as a member of the Cherokee Medical LLC Board (now known as Qualla Enterprises, LLC); and

WHEREAS, the investigation resulted in an Ethics Investigation Report in Case No. 2023-1-63. In the report, the Office of Internal Audit and Ethics concluded that Mr. Wilson had violated the following provisions of the ethics ordinance: C.C. Sec. 117-45.3(b), 117-45.3(d)(1), 117-45.3(d)(5) and 117-45.3(d)(15); and

WHEREAS, as part of the report, the Audit and Ethics Committee, which is part of the Office of Internal Audit and Ethics, recommended that Mr. Wilson should be sanctioned in the following ways: that he should be required to pay a fine of \$4,000, and that he should not be appointed to any position for a period of five years; and

WHEREAS, this resolution is presented to adopt the findings and conclusions of the Ethics Investigation Report, to make the report part of the record of Tribal Council, and to impose sanctions on Mr. Wilson.

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians Tribal Council, in Council assembled, at which a quorum is present, that the Ethics Investigation Report dated August 3, 2023, issued by the Office of Internal Audit and Ethics in Case No. 2023-1-63, regarding the conduct of Jeremy Wilson, is hereby accepted and adopted by Tribal Council.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of the Ethics Investigation Report is attached and incorporated into to this resolution, and is hereby made part of the official record of Tribal Council.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Tribal Council hereby adopts the recommendation of the Audit and Ethics Committee that Jeremy Wilson shall be fined \$4,000 (four thousand dollars) which shall be a debt to the Tribe for which Mr. Wilson's per capita may be garnished.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Jeremy Wilson is prohibited from appointment to any position with the Tribal government or appointment to any position on any entity, enterprise, board or commission of the Tribe for _____ years.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Tribal government and any entity, enterprise, board or commission of the Tribe shall not enter any contracts for goods or services with Jeremy Wilson or any business entity for which he is a principal, for _____ years.

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

Submitted by Tribal Council