

CHEROKEE COUNCIL HOUSE
CHEROKEE, NORTH CAROLINA

Date: _____

Ordinance No.: _____ **(2018)**

WHEREAS, the Free Press Act of 2006, contained in the Cherokee Code of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, was enacted with the passage of Ord. No. 214 (2006); and

WHEREAS, the Editorial Board of the Cherokee One Feather, established by said Act, wishes to strengthen the laws of the Tribe in relation to free press.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED, by the Tribal Council of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, in Council assembled, at which a quorum is present, that Cherokee Code Chapter 75 is hereby amended as follows:

Sec. 75.2 – Policy

It shall be the policy of the Cherokee One Feather to publish news articles and other materials and information judged by the editorial staff to have general value to the Cherokee community. Such news articles shall include a resume of Tribal Council business, Executive Committee and Business Committee actions and action taken by other Tribal committees, boards and enterprises. ~~All news articles, editorials or other matters dealing with controversial subjects shall be submitted to the editorial board for consideration and approval prior to publication.~~

Sec. 75-4. Anonymous sources.

The One Feather will always strive to identify sources of news articles unless such identification would adversely affect the source. The One Feather Editorial Board will decide when the use of anonymous sources will be allowed on a case-by-case basis. One Feather staff will not be subject to pressure or threats from political persons or entities to reveal anonymous sources. Any EBCI politician who pressures or threatens a Cherokee One Feather staff member, asking them to reveal an anonymous source will be reported to the EBCI Office of Internal Audit & Ethics for an ethics violation investigation, review and recommendation.

Sec. 75-53. – Policy

An independent Free Press of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians. The Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians Free Press shall be independent from any undue influence and free of any particular political interest. It is the duty of the press to report without bias the activities of the Tribe, the tribal government, and any and all news of interest to have informed citizens. Any incident of political pressure or influence that threatens a staff member of the Cherokee One Feather shall be turned over to the EBCI Office of Internal Audit & Ethics for an ethics violation investigation, review and recommendation.

Sec. 75-55. Editorial Board and Editor

- (a) An Editorial Board is hereby created and shall consist of all members of the One Feather staff and ~~the Tribal Director of Marketing and Public Relations~~ as well as one member appointed by the EBCI Executive Committee, one member appointed by the Tribal Council, and a staff member from the EBCI Office of the Attorney General designated by the Attorney General. The One Feather will provide recommendations for the appointed seats. The appointed members will serve on the Board indefinitely and will only be replaced if they resign their position or are removed by a majority vote of the remaining members of the Board after being found in violation of the Society of Professional Journalists Code of Ethics or subsection (e) in this Section. Appointed Board members will be replaced by being appointed by the current body (i.e. EBCI Executive Office or Tribal Council) that originally appointed the person leaving.

Submitted by Robert Jumper on behalf of the Cherokee One Feather Editorial Board.