



CHITIMACHA
TRIBE OF LOUISIANA

May 4, 2016

Dear Tribal Member:

Over this past weekend, Chairman O'Neil J. Darden, Jr. sent a personal letter to the membership stating that he was terminating his voluntary, temporary leave of absence. We would like to clear up any confusion.

Chairman Darden's description of his removal as voluntary is incorrect. According to the Tribe's Constitution and ByLaws, except for the authority to chair meetings, the Tribal Chairman is allocated only the authority delegated to that position by the Tribal Council. Based on that authority, on February 18, 2016, the Council passed Resolution CHI-TC #12-16:

"THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: that the Vice Chairman of the Chitimacha Tribe, that is, April Wyatt, shall have all daily responsibilities and Tribal duties allocated by the Tribal Council and customarily performed by the Chairman, reassigned to the Tribal Vice Chairman and/or any other (Non-Chairman) Tribal Council member authorized by this or subsequent Council Resolutions in the absence or unavailability of the Vice Chairman until further Council Resolution revoking or amending such reassignment."

Therefore, Chairman Darden cannot make the decision to return to his duties as Chairman on his own authority. As noted in the above quoted transfer Resolution section, the transfer may not be revoked or amended unless done so through a separate Tribal Council Resolution. That has NOT occurred. Thus the transfer of authority to the Vice Chairman and the restrictions on the Chairman's authority remains in effect. The Council has notified Chairman Darden of this.

In accordance with the terms of the Tribal-State Compact, before a decision as to whether the State, Tribe or Federal authorities will handle a prosecution of a Tribal member, the case must be reviewed by the United States Attorney's Office. While Chairman Darden is subject to this review and due to the very troubling nature of these allegations, the Tribal Council determined that Chairman Darden would take a leave of absence, while continuing to receive his full salary. His only remaining involvement would be his only Constitutional authority - conducting public Council meetings.

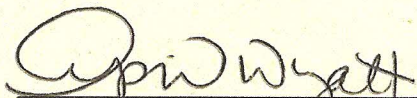
Because the criminal investigation remains ongoing, the Tribal Council has been forced to take significant actions to protect and maintain the Tribe's business, remain compliant with all applicable Federal, Compact, and Tribal laws and regulations, and continue the Tribe's cooperation with the Louisiana State Police, the National Indian Gaming Commission, and the mandatory external Auditors obligations. These considerable efforts have been reinforced by the immediate corrective actions taken, including the removal of Chairman Darden's authority. To date, such actions are acceptable by those enforcing Federal, State and Tribal oversight.

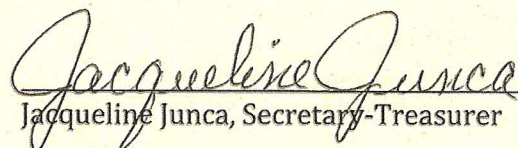
We advise you of these facts so you can be fully informed of the consequences that can still stem from this very serious pending investigation. Also, since being officially notified of the pending investigation/charges against Chairman Darden, the Tribe has been forced to incur substantial costs. However, to now REVOKE any of the protective and remedial steps that have been taken to best protect the Tribe, would, at a minimum, cause unnecessary concerns of potential interference with the ongoing investigation and otherwise negatively affect the Tribe's reputation. Such an action would also require immediate alterations in the representations the Tribe has made to the Federal and State criminal investigation authorities, the external, internal and forensic audit teams, financial lending institutions, Federal government, and others. This would further damage the Tribe's credibility, something that this investigation has already done. We have no intention of placing the Tribe in additional jeopardy. The Tribe's present status and future are far more important to us.

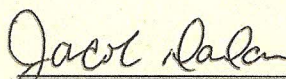
We hope this helps explain the actions taken by your Tribal Council and the reasons for those actions. We are doing everything we believe necessary to carry on through these difficult issues, and we are doing what is best for our Tribe as a whole. We ask for your support during this very challenging time.


Sincerely,

The Chitimacha Tribal Council:


April Wyatt, Vice Chairman


Jacqueline Junca, Secretary-Treasurer


Jacob Darden, Councilman


Toby Darden, Councilman