

PASSED

CHEROKEE COUNCIL HOUSE
CHEROKEE, QUALLA BOUNDARY, NC

Date: DEC 09 2021

RESOLUTION NO. 96 (2021)

A resolution to exclude Sawyer Arie Edwards from the lands of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians.

- WHEREAS, the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians (“EBCI” or “Tribe”) has the sovereign authority to exclude persons from lands of the Eastern Band in order to protect the integrity, law and order of the lands, and the welfare of Tribal members; and
- WHEREAS, the Tribal Council has codified its authority to exclude persons from the lands of the Eastern Band at Chapter 2 of the Cherokee Code; and
- WHEREAS, the power to exclude is an inherent and essential part of Tribal sovereignty that is indispensable to the Tribe's autonomy and self-governance; and
- WHEREAS, SAWYER ARIE EDWARDS (Date of Birth: 11/13/1992) is not a member of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, and has been residing at different locations in Graham County, North Carolina, including near Cherokee trust lands in the Snowbird community; and
- WHEREAS, on March 2, 2021, SAWYER ARIE EDWARDS interfered with EBCI enrolled members as they were lawfully cutting trees and was acting disorderly and refused to leave after being asked to go away numerous times, which made people concerned she would unintentionally get hurt or hurt someone based on the way she was acting; and
- WHEREAS, SAWYER ARIE EDWARDS was charged with disorderly conduct and harassment based on her behavior and the written and verbal statements given by witnesses; and
- WHEREAS, while being ordered to leave Tribal lands that day, SAWYER ARIE EDWARDS smelled of a controlled substance indicating drug use and tried to remove two guitars from a house on Wiggins Road which did not belong to her; and
- WHEREAS, on May 22, 2021, an EBCI enrolled member and Snowbird resident called law enforcement to notify them that SAWYER ARIE EDWARDS was walking up and down the roadway and “appeared to be messed up” leading to Cherokee Police to ensure the person was not causing or contributing to any imminent criminal activity; and
- WHEREAS, on October 26, 2021, Cherokee Police officers were dispatched to 2458 Wiggins Road in reference to SAWYER ARIE EDWARDS being on the property

screaming and cursing; and

WHEREAS, during the incident on October 26, 2021, SAWYER ARIE EDWARDS screamed and spit at Haylee Garland, the daughter of Zena Rattler, and on the same day, Zena Rattler shared information with Cherokee Police that EDWARDS had been trespassing across her property multiple times in the past months despite being told she was not welcome on the property and she must leave; and

WHEREAS, on October 26, 2021, a warrant charging SAWYER ARIE EDWARDS with Stalking was obtained from the North Carolina courts; and

WHEREAS, SAWYER ARIE EDWARDS has continued to harass EBCI tribal members and their families despite many warnings to cease contact; and

WHEREAS, the laws of criminal jurisdiction in Indian Country make it difficult for members of the Snowbird Community to obtain full justice in this situation; and

WHEREAS, on November 1, 2021, Sgt. Jeremy Spencer wrote a letter to request the banishment of SAWYER ARIE EDWARDS from tribal lands, noting that she has started spitting, cursing, and intentionally crossing onto tribal property in the Wiggins Road community, and she has been seen to be under the influence of an impairing substance on multiple occasions, and that she continues to act erratically and present problems to tribal members; and

WHEREAS, the erratic behavior of SAWYER ARIE EDWARDS continues to cause multiple problems to EBCI enrolled members living in the Snowbird community; and

WHEREAS, due to the nature of the actions by SAWYER ARIE EDWARDS and based on her residing near Tribal trust lands and continuously coming onto Tribal Trust lands to harass tribal members, the Tribal Council has good reason to believe that SAWYER ARIE EDWARDS is a threat to the integrity, law and order of EBCI lands and the welfare of the members of the Tribe.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Tribal Council, in Annual Council assembled with a quorum present and with the number of votes required by Tribal law, SAWYER ARIE EDWARDS is hereby permanently excluded from all Tribal lands and is hereby notified and ordered to vacate all tribal lands.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this permanent exclusion prohibits SAWYER ARIE EDWARDS from entering on or being present on Tribal lands for any purpose except as required by Tribal Council or Tribal Court.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that if SAWYER ARIE EDWARDS is found improperly on Tribal lands at any time after the effective date of this resolution she shall be treated as a trespasser and appropriate legal action shall be taken against her.

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

*Submitted by the Attorney General's Office (Chris Siewers) on behalf CIPD officers and
Snowbird community members.*

EASTERN BAND OF CHEROKEE INDIANS
TRIBAL COUNCIL

NOTICE OF HEARING

To: SAWYER ARIE EDWARDS

You are hereby notified that a hearing will be held on **December 9, 2021, at 1:00 pm in the Tribal Council House**, located on the Qualla Boundary at 88 Council House Loop, Cherokee, North Carolina, to determine whether you should be permanently excluded from the trust lands of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians. Exclusion proceedings are conducted pursuant to Cherokee Code Chapter 2. A copy of Chapter 2 is included for your reference.

The Eastern Band will consider excluding you from Cherokee trust lands for the reason provided in the enclosed resolution. The resolution will be presented to the Tribal Council at the hearing, at which time the Tribal Council will vote to determine if you should be excluded.

As the person named in the resolution, you have the right to be present and be heard in accordance with tribal law.

Chapter 2 EXCLUSION POWERS OF TRIBE¹

Sec. 2-1. Power to exclude.

- (a) The Tribal Council shall have the power to exclude enrolled Tribal members for sexual offenses against minors and for convictions for trafficking in controlled substance under Chapter 14 of the Cherokee Code. Tribal Council shall also have the authority to exclude enrolled Tribal members for violations of state and federal law where such offenses would constitute trafficking in controlled substance under the Cherokee Code if committed within the territory of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians.
- (b) The Tribal Council shall have the power to exclude other persons from Cherokee trust lands when necessary to protect the integrity and law and order on Tribal lands and territory or the welfare of its members.
- (c) The Tribal Council shall have the power to exclude from or prohibit operation of a business on Cherokee trust lands or specific locations thereon, if the business threatens the health, safety or welfare of Tribal members or Tribal natural resources due to spills, accidents, illegal dumping, or other unauthorized releases of hazardous materials into the environment.
- (d) The power to exclude contains the power to modify or terminate a previously ordered exclusion.
- (e) The Tribe hereby declares that the power to exclude is an inherent and essential part of Tribal sovereignty. It is indispensable to the Tribe's autonomy and self-governance. Further, it is a natural right of the members of this Tribe, through their Tribal leaders and codified Tribal law, to exercise the power of exclusion to protect the Tribe's natural, economic, and cultural resources, and to protect the health, safety and welfare of Tribal members.
- (f) In this Chapter, "exclusion" means the power to limit or prohibit a person's or entity's presence and activities on Tribal lands. "Tribal lands" and "territory" mean lands held in trust for the Tribe by the United States.
- (g) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Tribe reserves its sovereign immunity and shall not be liable for claims of loss, damage or injury resulting from exclusions.

(Ord. No. 92, 5-5-1994; Ord. No. 271, 7-24-1996; Ord. No. 630, 2-1-2007; Ord. No. 589, Art. III, 2-8-2007; Ord. No. 124, 3-18-2020)

Sec. 2-2. Tribal Council proceedings.

The Tribal Council shall exercise its power to exclude persons from Cherokee trust lands only in open session of the Council. Nothing in this section shall prohibit the issuance of Writs of Emergency Temporary Exclusion under Section 2-9 or the exclusion of persons under Section 2-3(f).

(Ord. No. 92, 5-5-1994; Ord. No. 589, Art. III, 2-8-2007; Ord. No. 124, 3-18-2020)

¹Cross reference(s)—Civil procedure, ch. 1; exclusion or rejection of individuals for Tribal gaming, § 16-9.01 et seq.; enrollment, ch. 49; Tribal government, ch. 117.

Sec. 2-3. Notice and legal defense rights.

- (a) The Tribal Council shall provide reasonable written notice to all persons over whom it exercises the power of exclusion, together with hearing before the Tribal Council.
- (b) Such persons shall be provided with a written statement of the grounds for the proposed exclusion at the same time notice of the hearing is served upon them.
- (c) Such persons shall have the right to appear in person before the Tribal Council. In a hearing at which the Tribal Council is considering excluding a person or considering modifying or terminating a previously issued order of exclusion, the person being subject to exclusion shall have the right to be represented by legal counsel at his or her own expense. In its discretion, Tribal Council may issue subpoenas for the attendance of witnesses or for documents to be produced. The formal Rules of Evidence do not apply in exclusion hearings conducted by Tribal Council.

(Ord. No. 92, 5-5-1994; Ord. No. 271, 7-24-1996; Ord. No. 589, Art. III, 2-8-2007; Ord. No. 124 , 3-18-2020)

Sec. 2-4. Terms of exclusion.

The Tribal Council may exclude persons from Cherokee trust lands for limited periods of time, indefinite periods of time or permanently, at the discretion of Tribal Council.

(Ord. No. 92, 5-5-1994; Ord. No. 124 , 3-18-2020)

Sec. 2-5. Votes required for exclusion.

Once a quorum of Tribal Council is established to consider an exclusion, a majority vote shall be required to approve the exclusion action. Except for Writs for Emergency Temporary Exclusion, exclusion actions shall be presented to Tribal Council by resolution.

(Ord. No. 92, 5-5-1994; Ord. No. 530, 1-6-2005; Ord. No. 124 , 3-18-2020)

Sec. 2-6. Enrolled members; permanent exclusion.

If an enrolled Tribal member is permanently excluded from Cherokee trust lands, then the member's name shall be removed from the membership roll of the Tribe and all privileges pertaining thereto shall immediately be suspended indefinitely.

(Ord. No. 271, 7-24-1996; Ord. No. 124 , 3-18-2020)

Sec. 2-7. Request for exclusion action.

The persons with standing to bring a request to the Tribal Council for an exclusion action against a person who is subject to this Chapter are:

- (1) The Principal Chief.
- (2) The Vice Chief.
- (3) Members of the Tribal Council.
- (4) The Chief of the Cherokee Police Department.

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- (5) The Tribal Prosecutor.
 - (6) The Attorney General.

(Ord. No. 271, 7-24-1996; Ord. No. 757, 5-16-2001; Ord. No. 589, Art. III, 2-8-2007; Ord. No. 124 , 3-18-2020)

Sec. 2-8. List of convictions for which exclusion is a punishment.

The Clerk of Cherokee Court shall semiannually provide Tribal Council with a list of all persons convicted of crimes during the preceding six months in which banishment is provided by statute. The list shall be transmitted no later than January 31, 2007 and every six months thereafter. The initial list shall include all persons convicted since April 1, 2000.

(Ord. No. 589, Art. III, 2-8-2007)

Sec. 2-9. Emergency temporary exclusion.

(a) *Definitions.* For the purpose of this section the following definitions shall apply:

- (1) *Officer:* A sworn law enforcement officer of the Cherokee Police Department or any other law enforcement officer with the responsibility of enforcing Cherokee Law under authority of this code or a mutual aid agreement.
- (2) *Cherokee Officer:* A sworn law enforcement officer of the Cherokee Police Department only.
- (3) *Crimes Against Children:* Any act which would violate the provisions of Article VII of Chapter 14 of the Cherokee Code committed within the territorial jurisdiction of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, whether or not the Cherokee Court has jurisdiction over the individual committing the offense.
- (4) *Drug Offense:* Any act which would violate the provisions of Article XVI of Chapter 14 of the Cherokee Code committed within the territorial jurisdiction of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, whether or not the Cherokee Court has jurisdiction over the individual committing the offense. Considering all appropriate aggravating factors which may be present, the term "Drug Offense" shall not include any act which would be punished as a class D offense under Cherokee law.
- (5) *Non-member:* Any person not officially enrolled as a Tribal member in the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians
- (6) *Designated Official:* An individual designated by Cherokee Law to enforce the provisions of this section by issuing Writs of Emergency Temporary Exclusion. Any judicial official of the Cherokee Court shall be a designated official for the purposes of this Chapter. In this Chapter, "judicial official" means a justice, judge or magistrate who is subject to the provisions of Cherokee Code Chapter 7 (the Judicial Code).
- (7) *Writ of Emergency Temporary Exclusion (Writ):* A legally binding order issued by the designated official exercising the power of exclusion of Tribal Council excluding a non-member from the Cherokee Trust lands. The Writ shall clearly state on its face the date, time and location of the next scheduled Tribal Council session The Writ shall remain in full force and effect for no longer than 90 days after it is issued by a designated official.

(b) When a Law Enforcement Officer has probable cause to believe that a non-member has committed a Drug Offense, the officer shall bring the non-member before the designated official without unnecessary delay to determine whether a Writ of Emergency Temporary Exclusion is necessary to protect the integrity and law and order on Tribal lands and territory or the welfare of its members. The commission of any Drug Offense by a non-member shall constitute a per se threat to the integrity and law and order on Tribal lands and territory or the welfare of its members.

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- (c) The officer shall complete a sworn, written application for Writ of Emergency Temporary Exclusion. The application shall contain a written statement of the essential facts constituting the Drug Offense. If the application establishes probable cause to believe that a Drug Offense has been committed by a non-member, the designated official must issue Writ of Emergency Temporary Exclusion. Without exception, a copy of the application and Writ and any appropriate information considered by the Designated Official shall be transmitted to the Tribal Operations Program of the Tribal Council no later than the next monthly resolution deadline set by the Tribal Operations Program.
 - (d) Any Cherokee Officer shall be authorized to execute a Writ of Emergency Temporary Exclusion upon a named non-member. The Cherokee Officer shall execute the Writ by serving a copy of the Writ and application upon the non-member and transporting the non-member to any location outside the territorial jurisdiction of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians.
 - (e) The issuance and execution of a Writ of Emergency Temporary Exclusion shall be independent of any criminal charges filed against the non-member in Cherokee Court or any other jurisdiction.
 - (f) Regardless of whether a writ is issued, the non-member shall be given notice of the next scheduled meeting of Tribal Council and the application and writ shall be placed upon the agenda. A decision by the Designated Official regarding probable cause shall not be binding on Tribal Council and hearing before Council shall require a de novo review of all appropriate facts and determinations. If no Writ is issued upon application, the Tribal Council may review the facts and hold a proceeding for non-emergency exclusion. At the designated meeting or any subsequent scheduled meeting, Tribal Council may renew the Writ until the next scheduled session, complete the process of formal exclusion under this chapter, or decline to take further action.
 - (g) The requirements of Cherokee Code Sections 2-2, 2-3, 2-4, 2-5, and 2-7 shall not apply to Writs of Temporary Emergency Exclusion issued under this section, but shall apply to all subsequent proceedings before Council.
 - (h) There is no right to judicial appeal of a Tribal Council decision to exclude a person or business (including a decision to prohibit the operation of a business) from Cherokee trust lands; provided, however, nothing in this Chapter shall preclude Tribal Council from re-considering an exclusion and modifying or terminating the order of exclusion by appropriate resolution, if Tribal Council believes a change of circumstances warrants such action.

(Ord. No. 589, Art. III, 2-8-2007; Ord. No. 400 , 12-16-2016; Ord. No. 124 , 3-18-2020)

Sec. 2-10. Harboring excluded persons.

Any person who harbors an excluded person on Cherokee trust lands shall be guilty of a crime and upon conviction thereof may be sentenced to a term of imprisonment not to exceed six months or a fine not to exceed \$5,000.00, or both, but shall be sentenced to a mandatory minimum term of not less than seven days.

(Ord. No. 124 , 3-18-2020)

Sec. 2-11. Service of exclusion resolution.

A copy of the Tribal Council resolution excluding a person from Cherokee trust lands shall be served on the excluded individual by a person authorized to serve legal process. Proof of service on excluded individuals shall be maintained by the Tribal Operations Program, in coordination with the Office of the Attorney General.

(Ord. No. 124 , 3-18-2020)

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I certify that copies of the attached Notice of Hearing, Cherokee Code Chapter 2, and the Resolution seeking exclusion were served on **SAWYER ARIE EDWARDS** on the date indicated below by personal service.

This the ____ day of _____, 2021.

Cherokee Police Department Officer

The attached Resolution/Ordinance No. 96 dated DECEMBER 09, 2021 was:

PASSED (X)

KILLED ()

and ratified in open Council on DECEMBER 09, 2021 by 100 voting for the act and 0 members voting against it as follows:

VOTE	FOR	AGAINST	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Richard French	X			
Teresa McCoy	X			
Boyd Owle	X			
Bucky Brown	X			
TW Saunooke	X			
David Wolfe	X			
Adam Wachacha	X			
Bo Crowe	X			
Bill Taylor	X			
Albert Rose	X			
Dike Sneed	X			
Tommye Saunooke	X			
	100	0	0	0



TRIBAL COUNCIL CHAIRMAN



ENGLISH CLERK



PRINCIPAL CHIEF

APPROVED (✓) VETOED ()

VETO UPHeld () VETO DENIED ()

DATE: 12/8/21

I hereby certify that the foregoing act of the Council was duly:

PASSED (✓)

KILLED ()

and ratified in open Council after the same has been interpreted by the Official Interpreter and has been fully and freely discussed.

INTERPRETED ()

OMITTED ()