

ZUNI TRIBAL COUNCIL  
ZUNI, NEW MEXICO

October 5, 1978

RESOLUTION NO. M70-78-993

WHEREAS, the Zuni Tribal Council consisting of the Governor, Lieutenant Governor and six Tenientes, is declared to be the legislative authority of the Pueblo of Zuni by Article V, Section 1 of the Constitution of the Zuni Tribe; and,

WHEREAS, the Zuni Tribal Council is authorized by Article VI, Section 1, (d) of the Constitution and to act in all matters that concern the welfare of the tribe; and,

WHEREAS, the Zuni Tribal Council has for several years been aware of the increasing problems posed for the Zuni people by the loss, theft or unauthorized removal from Zuni lands of items of sacred religious significance to the Zuni people and the related problems presented by the sale or transfer of these sacred items on the commercial art market; and,

WHEREAS, on May 30, 1978, the Tribal Council initiated a formal process by which these problems and the related problem of securing proper care for and/or return of such items as may now be in possession of museums of other third parties might be addressed and resolved; and,

WHEREAS, it was recognized and stated by the Tribal Council in the May 30th memorandum that "because this effort ultimately involves protection and return of objects which are intimately bound up with the traditional religious practices and doctrines of the Zuni Tribe, the appropriate tribal religious leaders should have final control over the process of policy making and decision making in this matter"; and,

WHEREAS, the Zuni Religious leaders have thoroughly considered these problems in their religious councils of which detailed transcripts in the Zuni language have been prepared and from which the official Tribal Translator has abstracted a brief formal statement in the English language of the position of these religious leaders on this matter, said being attached hereto and dated September 20, 1978; and,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Zuni Tribal Council does hereby formally adopt the attached statement of the Zuni religious leaders as the official position of the Zuni Tribe on this matter, and does hereby reiterate the Council's full support of the Zuni religious leaders in their efforts to protect and to secure proper care for, respect for and return of items of religious significance to the Zuni people; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Zuni Tribal Council hereby requests that all [art dealers, commercial auctioneers, dealers' associations and private parties or museums] which may be connected with the national and international market in Indian art objects work with the Zuni Tribe to resolve the problem identified in this resolution--and particularly the problems posed by the sale and transfer of sacred Zuni religious items stolen from Zuni land--by implementation of the recommendations attached hereto and dated October 4, 1978.

ZUNI TRIBAL COUNCIL:

Dorson Zuniga  
Dorson Zuniga, Lt. Governor

Quincy Panteah  
Quincy Panteah, HD. Teniente

Virgil Wyaco  
Virgil Wyaco, Teniente

Fred Bowannie  
Fred Bowannie, Sr. Teniente

Chester Mahooty  
Chester Mahooty, Teniente

ABSENT  
Lowell Panteah, Teniente

Chauncey Simplicio  
Chauncey Simplicio, Teniente

C E R I F I C A T I O N

I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly considered by the Zuni Tribal Council at a duly called meeting at Zuni, New Mexico at which a quorum was present and that the same was approved by a vote of 7 in favor and 0 opposed on October 5, 1978, 1978.

Edison Laselute  
Edison Laselute, Governor  
Pueblo of Zuni

APPROVED BY:

Edison Laselute  
Edison Laselute, Governor

October 5, 1978  
Date