



G.T. Bynum
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

November 2, 2021

Dear Members of the Greater Tulsa Area Indian Affairs Commission:

Thank you for your letter.

The Commission has been a valued resource during my time as mayor, working with me to establish Native American Day in Tulsa and to honor our city's Native American heritage through the naming of Dream Keepers Park. In this instance, I appreciate the Commission providing an outlet for opinions to be shared regarding the Huerta case.

The City's amicus brief serves to provide the Supreme Court with the practical real-life experience of law enforcement personnel in the largest municipality impacted by the McGirt decision. Hiding the experience of law enforcement personnel from the Supreme Court would be a disservice to every person who is impacted by this matter. The United States Supreme Court should have all relevant information at its disposal when considering an issue of this importance. Accordingly, the City of Tulsa will not withdraw its amicus brief in this matter.

The membership of the Greater Tulsa Area Indian Affairs Commission has been intentionally composed mostly of Tulsans who hold official positions within tribal governments or who have business relationships with tribal business entities. These close ties are one of the main reasons the Commission has been such an effective vehicle for joint initiatives between the City of Tulsa and tribal governments in the past. Unfortunately, these ties also present a direct conflict of interest when it comes to the evaluation of a legal matter of this nature. The Commission is not designed to be, and can not be used as, a legal advisor to the City of Tulsa in this instance.

Again, I am very grateful for our past collaboration and am eager to find more ways to continue that in the future. Thank you for your letter and your service to our community.

Best regards,

G.T. Bynum
Mayor
City of Tulsa