



Organized Village of Kake

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(Federally Recognized Tribal Government serving the Kake, Alaska area)

Resolution No. 2018-20 Resolution to change ‘Saginaw Bay’ to ‘Skanax’

WHEREAS, the Organized Village of Kake (hereinafter OVK) is a duly constituted Indian Tribe organized pursuant to the authority of the Federal Indian Reorganization Acts (hereinafter IRA) of 1934 & 1936 with the IRA Council as the duly elected governing body formed under its *Constitution & By-Laws*; and,

WHEREAS, the IRA Council has responsibilities to its Tribal Citizens (population of 450 residing in the Kake area) that include, among others, powers of authority to “protect the welfare and security of the Village” and “protect and preserve the timber, fisheries and other property and natural resources” as put forth within the OVK *Constitution & By-Laws*; and,

WHEREAS, the lands and waters of Southeast Alaska in and around the current site of Kake, Alaska have been the traditional territory of the Kake Lingit Natives since time immemorial and includes, but is not necessarily limited to, a range that includes Kupreanof, Kuiu, Baranof and Admiralty Islands and adjacent mainland areas; and,

WHEREAS, ‘Saginaw Bay’ or ‘Skanax,’ that is located on north Kuiu Island, is the traditional territory of the Tsaagweidi Clan/family who currently live in Kake, AK; and,

WHEREAS, the Tsaagweidi clan has never relinquished their historical ownership of that bay and surrounding areas, and have never forgotten the tribal names associated with that area that were changed to English names post-contact with Russians, Spaniards, and the U.S. government; and,

WHEREAS, OVK recognizes the importance of Lingit Place Names and the history to embody and the necessity to document the important names on a Geographic Information System; and,

WHEREAS, the Kake Lingit Natives, now functioning under a contemporary tribal government structure as referenced above under the governing powers of the Organized Village of Kake, continues to be recognized by the United States of America as a sovereign government; and,

WHEREAS, the governing body of OVK, and earlier forms of local tribal government, have never made agreements or treaties with other governments or entities (including Russia, United States and the State of Alaska) to relinquish any of the traditional lands, rights or precepts associated with Indian Country; and,

WHEREAS, the Kake Lingit Natives, since contact with foreign countries who encroached on their traditional lands, were historically documented as being fiercely protective of all their lands and people; and,

WHEREAS, in January of 1869, the U.S. government decided to bombard 4 known Kake villages in the Kake traditional territory that included 'Saginaw Bay' after lives were lost in Sitka, AK and subsequently at Tyee on the southern tip of Admiralty Island outside of Kake, AK; and,

WHEREAS, on approximately January 19, 1869 the U.S.S. Saginaw warship owned by the US government and captained by Captain Richard Meade proceeded to bombard Kúchx'w or 'Security Bay,' Skanax, or 'Saginaw Bay' Keex' or Kake village, and Was'heeni, or 'Hamilton Bay'; and,

WHEREAS, after the U.S.S. Saginaw and its sailors bombed and burned all buildings, canoes, and food storages at all the village sites, the U.S. government proceeded to name one of the bays after the boat who destroyed all homes, canoes, and food for all the families who lived in all 4 villages; and,

WHEREAS, no lives were lost at the time of the bombardment, however some of the elderly and young were lost due to loss of food storage and exposure to the elements of January in Alaska; and,

WHEREAS, The U.S. Board on Geographic Names recognizes that the indigenous tribes of the United States have traditional names for all of their traditional homelands.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the OVK IRA Council formally requests the U.S. Board on Geographic Names to change 'Saginaw Bay' on Kuiu Island in Southeast Alaska to its traditional Lingit name of 'Skanax' in the Geographic Names Information System (GNIS) due to the offensive name of 'Saginaw' and the associated history it carries after destroying 4 historical Kake villages in 1869.

CERTIFICATION

This resolution was duly adopted at an IRA Council meeting held this 5th day of October, 2018 by a quorum of 6 (includes president as non-voting chairperson except in case of tie vote) with 5 yes votes, 0 no votes, and 0 abstaining.

Joel Jackson
Joel Jackson, President

Robin Rose
Attested by