



Terry Rambler
Chairman

SAN CARLOS APACHE TRIBE

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Tao Etpison
Vice-Chairman

March 21, 2025

Via E-Mail and U.S. Postal Service

The Honorable Wendy Rogers
Senator
The Honorable David Marshall
Representative
The Honorable Walter Blackman
Representative

Arizona Legislature – LD7
1700 W. Washington Street
Phoenix, Arizona 85007
E-M: wrogers@azleg.gov
dmarshall@azleg.gov
wblackman@azleg.gov

The Honorable Katie Hobbs
Governor
State of Arizona
1700 W. Washington Street
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

The Honorable Kris Mayes
Attorney General – State of Arizona
2005 N. Central Avenue
Phoenix, Arizona 85004-1545

Re: Emily Pike

Dear Governor Hobbs, Attorney General Mayes, Senator Rogers, Representative Marshall, and Representative Blackman:

On behalf of the over 17,000 members of the San Carlos Apache Tribe (“Tribe”) and the San Carlos Council, the Tribe’s governing body, I transmit Council Resolution No. MR-25-049. This resolution requests an amendment to the Arizona Revised Statutes to strengthen children’s group home standards, an investigation into group homes and runaways, and supports HB2281 to establish a Missing Indigenous Person Alert System.

Senator Rogers, Rep. Marshall, Rep. Blackman

Governor Hobbs, Attorney General Mayes

Re: Emily Pike

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We remain deeply distressed over the brutal murder of 14-year-old Emily Pike, who was placed by our Tribe's Social Services Department at Sacred Journey, Inc., a residential childcare center located in Mesa. After a month there, Emily left the facility without permission on or about Jan. 27. Most of her dismembered remains were found in plastic garbage bags on Feb. 14, about 100 miles away off U.S. Highway 60 near a remote forest road.

Our Council has offered a \$75,000 reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the person or persons responsible for Emily's murder. We have requested the public to supplement the reward to generate more interest and leads. This crime must not go unsolved. Emily was murdered in a cruel, depraved and heinous act and the perpetrator(s) must be held accountable.

Unfortunately, Emily is not the first child to leave Sacred Journey without the group home's permission. The Mesa Police Department reports that about 30 children have run away from Sacred Journey over the past three years. What happened to these other children? Are they all safe and accounted for? Why has this clear failure to protect these children been allowed to continue unabated for years?

We strongly believe the circumstances require a comprehensive review by the state that goes beyond the ongoing police investigation into Emily's murder. We respectfully request Governor Hobbs, given your background in social work, take all steps necessary to implement reforms in group homes to ensure the safety of children is a top priority of your Administration.

And we respectfully request Attorney General Mayes investigate the circumstances surrounding Emily's unauthorized departure from Sacred Journey. This investigation should carefully review the safety, security, monitoring, licensing and operational standards for group homes and determine how these could be strengthened to prevent children from leaving their care without permission. We ask that your recommendations be presented to the Legislature to be considered in appropriate legislation that is named in honor of Emily Pike.

The Tribe's resolution also supports HB 2281 that would create an alert system upon learning that an indigenous person is missing, in peril or in the company of a dangerous person. An alert system should be immediately activated upon notification an indigenous person is in danger. We appreciate Representative Martinez and her co-sponsors, Reps. Brian Garcia, Mae Peshlakai and Myron Tsosie for introducing HB2281. I look forward to your support in passing and signing this bill into law.

As we say in our Apache language, Ahi'yi'é (thank you) in advance for your review and consideration of our requests.

Senator Rogers, Rep. Marshall, Rep. Blackman

Governor Hobbs, Attorney General Mayes

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Sincerely,

SAN CARLOS APACHE TRIBE



Terry Rambler
Chairman

Enclosure:

San Carlos Council Resolution No. MR-25-049

Cc: The Honorable Senator Theresa Hatathlie (LD6), thatathlie@azleg.gov
The Honorable Senator David Gowan (LD19), dgowan@azleg.gov
The Honorable Rep. Myron Tsosie (LD6), mtsosie@azleg.gov
The Honorable Rep. Mae Peshlakai (LD6), mpeshlakai@azleg.gov
The Honorable Rep. Gail Griffin (LD19), ggriffin@azleg.gov
The Honorable Rep. Lupe Diaz (LD19), ldiaz@azleg.gov
The Honorable Katie Hobbs, Governor, khobbs@azleg.gov
Jason Chavez, Tribal Liaison, Office of the Governor, JChavez@az.gov
Arizona Tribal Leaders c/o Maria Dadgar, Exec. Dir., ITCA, maria.dadgar@itcaonline.com

San Carlos Apache Tribe

Tao Etpison, Vice Chairman
San Carlos Council Members
Christabelle Mull, GM
A.B. Ritchie, AG, DOJ
Chrono