Gum yu je?

Tribal Department Directors and Hualapai Community Members,

Hualapai Tribal Citizens of the Community of Peach Springs; and all other Tribal Citizens nearby and far away. As you know, or don’t know, the Council has passed Resolution 19-2020 that has been in place since March 17, 2020. The Hualapai Tribal Council is focused on the onset and spread of the Coronavirus. We are looking at a proactive approach to the situation and working to the longer extent of possibilities of all community events, departments, and services to Peach Springs. At this time, we ask you to proceed with a calm and steady approach and to act with respect for one another.

First and foremost, we want to extend our gratitude and prayers to the Tribal members who gathered to sing on all Peoples’ behalf and for all the others on the blessings they offered. Our Incident Command Team and our Federal leaders and staff, especially healthcare and emergency preparedness professionals that are working tirelessly to protect and care for our relatives and communities.

Tribal Nations across the country have taken, and continue to take, actions to protect their communities. By doing so, each Tribe is demonstrating its inherent right to decide what actions are in the best interest of their own Nation and we can only imagine the difficulty in making these tough decisions. We appreciate your continued leadership to guide us through this pandemic.
Don’t let the fear set in. Remember we have endured much harsher conditions, experiences, and threats to our way of life. In order to beat this, we need powerful people, immune systems, positive minds, and determination.

For our youth of Hualapai: this COVID-19 virus is very serious. As young people, you might be able to handle the virus and get over it, but if you take it home to your elders (aunts, uncles, parents), it may kill them as they are not protected, as their immune system is not like yours. Be safe and thoughtful of your elders.

Last week Tribal Council took several actions to keep the Hualapai community safe from the Coronavirus pandemic (COVID19.) We declared a State of Emergency, activated an Incident Command Team and instituted a partial shut-down of Grand Canyon Resort Corporation and Tribal Departments. Tribal Council also strongly recommended that community members and businesses follow the recommendations of the Center for Disease Control (CDC) to practice self-isolation, social distancing and use universal precautions.

We commend the Community for its cooperation with Tribal Council’s efforts to prevent the spread of the Coronavirus (COVID19) to the Hualapai Reservation. We recognize that many of the precautions taken may cause inconvenience. We also acknowledge this situation causes understandable concerns and anxieties. Despite the uncertainty and hardship; we need to continue to be diligent and strong. So far, our efforts are working. Today, we are grateful to report there are no confirmed cases of the Coronavirus in our community!

The Incident Command Team (ICT,) led by Melvin Hunter, Jr. has worked quickly and decisively to carry out the initial directives of Council to ensure the safety and well being of the Hualapai Community under the circumstances. Accomplishments of the ICT so far include:

- Making sure our community Elders and Youth continue to receive school and program specific meals during shut-downs in an organized and safe way, and assisting with the disbursement of these meals;
- They are overseeing the safe return of our youth attending boarding schools to our community and providing medical screening to them upon arrival;
- They are collaborating with local businesses to ensure the availability of food and essential supplies within the community;
- They are monitoring roads and transportation to protect the resources of the Tribe and the health of community members;

We have establishing several communication sites and systems to educate and inform the Community regarding COVID19, the preventative precautions now in place here and any
related actions taken by Council and the ICT, as well as services remaining open during the partial shutdown and how to access them; for instance:

- The Tribe’s Website at [www.hualapai-nsn.gov](http://www.hualapai-nsn.gov) now posts current updates and information regularly on its first page;
- A **textmygov** account has been set up, so community members who sign up may receive regular messages directly from the ICT from text messages; (Text HUALAPAI1 to 91896 to sign up.)
- There is a manned information telephone line at (928) 769-2312; (The ICT Public Information Officer is available to answer questions and respond to concerns throughout the day and the team commander is available from 11 am to 12 pm daily.)
- Informational flyers and pamphlets have been delivered door to door to individual community households and mailed to community members;
- The Tribe’s radio station, KWLP is regularly broadcasting COVID-19 Public Service Announcements (PSAs); Press Releases from the Incident Command Team and Council; Educational Interviews and Announcements from I.H.S., announcements regarding program and department closures, as well as available services; and National Native and Statewide News and programming of interest related to the COVID 19 pandemic status.
- THE ICT has created a Facebook page on which updates and information are regularly being posted: Hualapai Tribe Response.

The Council and the ICT greatly appreciate the support and cooperation of the community during this State of Emergency. We encourage the community to remain positive and adaptable.

What is next? Tribal Council and the ICT will continue to monitor and reevaluate this evolving situation, implement necessary measures to provide for and keep the community safe during this evolving situation and keep members informed. It is our intent to come up with a one year plan to adjust precautions in response to any worsening or improvements with COVID19.

In closing, we need to keep practicing cleanliness, sanitation, social distancing, and voluntary self-isolation as recommended by the CDC; limit unnecessary travel off the Reservation; take steps to be informed; and seek medical attention if needed. Let’s continue to keep each other well!

Hank yu

Chairman Damon Clarke