



Proclamation

From the Office of the Governor
of the Chickasaw Nation

WHEREAS, the Chickasaw people have been a sovereign and self-governing nation since time immemorial. After forcible removal from our ancient homelands east of the Mississippi, we built a new home in Indian Territory. In 1856, the Chickasaw people wrote and ratified our first Constitution. In 1983, we ratified a new Constitution to reform our government after years of Federal intrusion, control, and disruption. In both documents, we began with an expression of our gratitude for God's grace and beneficence in allowing us to form our own government. With this blessing, we built on our history and established new institutions to govern our affairs within our new treaty homeland, the boundaries of which are set forth in our treaties with the United States. The Chickasaw Nation continues through our people, and for 165 years, we have governed ourselves and our treaty homeland affairs in accord with our constitution; and

WHEREAS, on July 9, 2020, the United States Supreme Court held Muscogee Creek Nation treaty territory boundaries continue to define a "reservation," which is a form of Indian country in which Federal and Tribal jurisdiction displace State jurisdiction for purposes of crimes involving Indian persons. Oklahoma courts have since applied this ruling to our treaty homeland and concluded that we, too, possess a reservation for purposes of criminal law. These rulings affirm what we have always known: The Chickasaw people continue, and so too does our treaty homeland; and

WHEREAS, many things have changed since the Chickasaw people were forced to leave our ancient lands to establish a new republic in what later became Oklahoma, but we remain the Chickasaw Nation. Today, we share our treaty homeland with fellow Oklahomans as we live and work in broader, shared communities, and what affects one of us tends to affect all of us. Changes in circumstance, however, do not diminish the significance of our continuance as a Tribal sovereign. The Chickasaw Nation has long been a source of strength and stability, both within our treaty homeland and beyond, and will continue to be so; and

WHEREAS, the preamble to the *Chickasaw Constitution* (1983) defines what the Chickasaw people have long understood and the courts have affirmed: We, the Chickasaw people, govern ourselves as the Chickasaw Nation and occupy a treaty homeland recognized as a reservation and described by the following boundaries:

Beginning on the north bank of Red River, at the mouth of Island Bayou, where it empties into Red River, about twenty-six miles on a straight line below the mouth of False Washita, thence running a northwesterly course along the main channel of said bayou to the junction of the three prongs of said bayou nearest the dividing ridge between Washita and Low Blue Rivers, as laid down on Captain R.L. Hunter's map; thence northerly along the eastern prong of said Island Bayou to its source; thence due north to the Canadian River; thence west along

the main Canadian to the ninety-eight degree of west longitude; thence south to Red River and thence down Red River to the beginning; Provided; however, if a line running due north from the eastern source of Island Bayou to the main Canadian shall not include Allen's or Wapanucka Academy within the Chickasaw District, then an off-set shall be made from said line, so as to leave said academy two miles within the Chickasaw District, north, west and south from the lines of boundary.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, BILL ANOATUBBY, GOVERNOR of the Chickasaw Nation, by virtue of the authority vested in me, do hereby proclaim all officials, employees, officers, offices, departments, commissions, and agencies of the Chickasaw Nation executive department to conduct the Nation's affairs relating to criminal law enforcement in accord with our having a recognized reservation and a sovereign interest in public safety throughout our treaty homeland.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the Chickasaw Nation to be affixed.

Done at the Headquarters of the Chickasaw Nation in the City of Ada, Oklahoma, this 11th day of March, in the year of Our Lord two thousand twenty-one, and of the Chickasaw Nation the one hundred sixty-fifth year.

Bill Anoatubby
Governor

