



April 24, 2017

**By First Class Mail**

Stephen Lewis, Governor  
Gila River Indian Community  
C/o Gila River Gaming Commission  
5359 North 48<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 120  
Chandler, AZ 85226

**Re: Gila River Indian Community Gaming Ordinance Amendments,  
Ordinance GR-06-16**

Dear Governor Lewis:

This letter responds to your January 25, 2017 request on behalf of the Gila River Indian Community for the National Indian Gaming Commission to review and approve the Community's amendments to its gaming ordinance. The amendments were adopted by the Community's Tribal Council in Ordinance GR-06-16. The amendments execute a wholly revised Gaming Ordinance.

Thank you for bringing these amendments to our attention and for providing us with a copy. These amendments are approved as they are consistent with the requirements of the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act and the NIGC's regulations. If you have any questions or require anything further, please contact Staff Attorney Rea Cisneros at 202-632-7003.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read "Jonodev Osceola Chaudhuri".

Jonodev Osceola Chaudhuri  
Chairman

cc: Jaclyn Johnson, The Rothstein Law Firm (via e-mail at: [jrjohnson@rothsteinlaw.com](mailto:jrjohnson@rothsteinlaw.com))



# GILA RIVER INDIAN COMMUNITY

## SACATON, AZ 85147

### ORDINANCE GR-06-16

**THE GILA RIVER INDIAN COMMUNITY COUNCIL HEREBY AMENDS THE GILA RIVER INDIAN COMMUNITY CODE BY RESCINDING GAMING ORDINANCE GR-08-09 AND ITS SUBSEQUENT AMENDMENTS; AND ENACTING THE AMENDED TITLE 22, CHAPTERS 1-12**

**WHEREAS,** the economic well-being and prosperity of members of the Gila River Indian Community (the "Community") are concerns of the highest priority to the Gila River Indian Community Council (the "Community Council"); and

**WHEREAS,** the Community Council is empowered by the Community's Constitution and By-Laws of 1960 to pass ordinances as necessary; and

**WHEREAS,** beginning in 1994, the Community Council adopted prior Gaming Ordinances, all of which are codified in Title 22, Chapters 1-12 of the 2009 GRIC Code, after which the Community Council amended Title 22 by Ordinance GR-08-09 on May 7, 2009, which was amended by Ordinance GR-12-09 on September 2, 2009, which was subsequently amended by Ordinance GR-07-15 on October 21, 2015; and

**WHEREAS,** the Community entered into a Tribal-State Gaming Compact with the State of Arizona under which the Community operates and regulates Class III gaming on the Gila River Indian Reservation on December 4, 2002; and

**WHEREAS,** the Gila River Gaming Commission (the "Commission") submitted the amended Gaming Ordinance adopted by the Community Council pursuant to Ordinance GR-07-15 to the National Indian Gaming Commission (the "NIGC") for approval on October 29, 2015; and

**WHEREAS,** the NIGC is the regulatory agency established by Congress for Class II and Class III gaming, pursuant to the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act, and amendments to tribal gaming ordinances must be approved by the Chairman of the NIGC pursuant to 25 U.S.C. §2710; and

**WHEREAS,** the NIGC has requested additional amendments be made to the Gaming Ordinance in order to comply with regulations of the NIGC prior to issuing an approval of the Gaming Ordinance; and

**WHEREAS,** the Commission withdrew its request for approval of the Gaming Ordinance from the NIGC in order to include the revisions requested by the NIGC; and

**WHEREAS,** the Commission thoroughly reviewed the NIGC's requested changes to the Gaming Ordinance and amended the Gaming Ordinance accordingly; and

**WHEREAS,** the Gila River Indian Community Legislative Standing Committee waives the notification requirements in Title 8, Chapter 7 of the GRIC Code because it is in the best interest of the Community and time is of the essence due to the fact that the substantive amendments approved by the Community Council pursuant to Ordinance GR-07-15 on October 21, 2015 went through the public comment process almost a year ago and the new amendments are technical changes requested by the NIGC; and

**WHEREAS,** the Gila River Gaming Commission and the Legislative Standing Committee have thoroughly reviewed the attached amended Title 22 Gaming Ordinance, Chapters 1-12, which includes the NIGC's requested changes and recommends that the Community Council authorize and approve the attached amended Title 22 Gaming Ordinance of the GRIC Code.

**NOW, THEREFORE IT IS HEREBY ENACTED,** that the Community Council hereby rescinds in its entirety Ordinance GR-08-09 and amendments which enacted the current Title 22 Gaming Ordinance, Chapters 1-12, and hereby approves and adopts the attached Gila River Indian Community Gaming Ordinance, codified as Title 22, Chapters 1-12 of the GRIC Code, to govern, regulate and control gaming activities in the Community; and

**BE IT FURTHER ENACTED,** that the attached Gaming Ordinance, as amended, shall become effective pursuant to final approval of the Chairman of the National Indian Gaming Commission and in accordance with the Constitution of the Gila River Indian Community, and that the rescission of Ordinance GR-08-09 and amendments thereto shall become effective at the same time as the attached Gaming Ordinance becomes effective; and

**BE IT FINALLY ENACTED,** that the Community Governor, or in the absence of the Governor, the Lieutenant Governor, is hereby authorized to sign and otherwise execute all documents and to take all steps necessary to implement the intent of this Ordinance.

**CERTIFICATION**

Pursuant to authority contained in Article XV, Section 1, (a) (1), (7), (9), (18), (19), (b) (8), (10) and Section 4 of the amended Constitution and Bylaws of the Gila River Indian Community, ratified by the tribe January 22, 1960, and approved by the Secretary of the Interior on March 17, 1960, the foregoing resolution was adopted on the 07<sup>th</sup> of September 2016, at a regular Community Council meeting held in District 3, Sacaton, Arizona at which a quorum of 14 Members were present by a vote of: 14 FOR; 0 OPPOSE; 0 ABSTAIN; 3 ABSENT; 0 VACANCY.

GILA RIVER INDIAN COMMUNITY

  
GOVERNOR

ATTEST:

  
COMMUNITY COUNCIL SECRETARY



RECEIVED  
PIMA AGENCY

SEP 12 2016

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS  
SACATON ARIZONA