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American Indian Center of the Great Plains Statement

The opportunity to engage in a dialogue with the Kansas City Chiefs is an opportunity for the American Indian Center of the Great Plains (AICGP) to be consistent with our mission to create an awareness and understanding of issues affecting Native people. Native people and American Indian tribes have consistently encouraged consultation with our communities to better understand and address issues affecting us. In furtherance of our mission, we have organized an American Indian Community Working Group to serve as a liaison with our Native community to work with the Kansas City Chiefs in an advisory capacity.

We embrace a goal to positively impact the Native Community of the Great Plains Region and the Kansas City metro with emphasis on job creation, education, cultural programs and youth sports. We are rooted in this community; and, we believe that relationships are important. While we respect the diverse perspectives that exist in Indian Country on broadly addressing the mascot issue in our nation, we recognize the opportunity to engage in a cross-cultural consultation and dialogue with the Kansas City Chiefs in hopes of facilitating a process that – over time – can lead to a cultural change in disrespectful behavior seen at times by some fans at the NFL games. We reached out to the Kansas City Chiefs earlier this year and appreciate their sincere effort to better understand the issues from a Native perspective. We have been educated on the history and values of the Chiefs organization; and, we believe there is an opportunity to educate on the issues through connecting our community here and honoring traditions.

The consultation in which we are engaging has just begun; and, we are optimistic that it will be a part of an ongoing process that can serve as a model to be implemented by other teams in other communities. We recognize this is the beginning of one journey in our life as a Native organization that is committed to serving job creation, education, cultural programs and sports.
American Indian Community Working Group

- The American Indian Community Working Group was organized by the American Indian Center of the Great Plains to serve as a liaison with the Native community.
- The working group serves as an advisor to the Kansas City Chiefs to promote an awareness and understanding of Native cultures and tribes in the region.
- The working group is comprised of six individuals who have experience working in intertribal communities and with diverse Native culture.
- In addition, the working group members have a strong collective experience in working with education, job creation, culture programs and youth team sports relationships in Native communities.
- Members:
  - John Learned – Cheyenne – Arapaho
  - Gena Timberman – Choctaw
  - Gary Johnson – Choctaw
  - Richard Lanoue – Lakota
  - Elwood Pipestem-Ott – Otoe-Missouria Tribe of Oklahoma
  - Ernie Stevens Jr. – Oneida Tribe of Wisconsin
Biographical Information for Key Individuals

- John Learned
  - Born in Lawrence and grew up in Oklahoma City. Currently resides in Kansas City.
  - His mother, Juanita, was the first woman to be elected chairperson of the Cheyenne-Arapaho tribes of Oklahoma.
  - Founded the American Indian Heritage Center of the Great Plains in Kansas City.
  - Two younger brothers, Brent and Matt, are accomplished painters, and Brent’s depictions of Plains Indian life have appeared at the National Museum of the American Indian at the Smithsonian Institution.
  - Consultant at Kansas City Indian Center.
  - Purchased the Loretto for a Native American sports building that will house Hall of Fame.
  - Coached volleyball at Haskell, then at Kansas as an assistant. Then became first women’s volleyball coach at the University of Missouri-Kansas City in 1987.

- Gena Timberman
  - Liaison for the American Indian Community Working Group.
  - Resides in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.
  - Practices law for Odom Sparks & Jones.
  - Founder of the Luksi Group, LLC, a consulting firm specializing in museums and cultural projects.
  - Member of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma.
  - Prominent positions and affiliations:
    - President of the Oklahoma Museums Association.
    - Served as the Executive Director of the Native American Cultural and Educational Authority of the State of Oklahoma.
    - Served as the Director of the American Indian Cultural Center & Museum.
    - Honored as a Native Daughter by the University of Nebraska.
    - Oklahoma Health Center Foundation Board of Trustees.
    - Creative Oklahoma Board of Directors.
    - YMCA of Greater Oklahoma City Board of Directors.
    - MAPS Citizens Advisory Committee/River Subcommittee.
    - Oklahoma City Rotary Club 29.
    - Journal Record’s Oklahoma City Business 40 Under 40.

- Moses Starr Jr.
  - Born in Concho, Oklahoma and currently resides there.
  - Elder of the Southern Cheyenne of Oklahoma and made Arapaho Chief in 2010.
  - Was a member of the United States Army Randers, serving in the Korean War.
  - Served as a paratrooper as part of the 82nd Airborne.
  - Was honorably discharged from the Army in 1954.
  - Camp Crier for Cheyenne Sundance.
  - Member of the Kit Fox society of the Cheyenne Tribe.
October 16, 2014

Chief John P. Froman
Peoria Tribe
P.O. Box 1527
Miami, OK 74355

Dear Chief John P. Froman,

The Kansas City Chiefs and the American Indian Community Working Group, in association with the American Indian Center of the Great Plains, hope you will join us in a celebration of American Indian Heritage Month at Arrowhead Stadium on Sunday, November 2.

Throughout the day, the Chiefs and the American Indian Community Working Group will utilize gameday production opportunities to bring awareness to more than 70,000 people, honoring tribes with a historic presence and connection in this region.

As the leading figure of the Peoria Tribe, the Kansas City Chiefs and the American Indian Community Working Group would be honored to have you participate in the day’s festivities.

As part of the celebration, there will be several ceremonies including a flag tribute. We respectfully request your consideration to include your tribal flag in the ceremony. The presence of the sovereign nation flags would be a meaningful visual representation in the stadium.

The goal of American Indian Center of the Great Plains, the American Indian Community Working Group and the Chiefs in celebrating American Indian Heritage Month is to educate and create awareness that has a positive impact on the city, the region and the entire country. We hope that you will consider joining us.

If you are able to participate or would like more information about the Working Group, please RSVP or email Gena Timberman, a liaison of the American Indian Community Working Group at gena@luksigroup.com. Gena is a member of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma and is coordinating outreach efforts for November 2nd at Arrowhead Stadium.

Sincerely,

Mark Donovan
President, Kansas City Chiefs

John Learned
President, American Indian Center of the Great Plains
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Monday, Oct. 27, 2014

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – The Kansas City Chiefs and the American Indian Community Working Group, in association with the American Indian Center of the Great Plains, will celebrate November as American Indian Heritage Month this week. The week-long celebration will culminate with the team’s American Indian Heritage Month game on Sunday, Nov. 2 when the Chiefs take on the New York Jets at Arrowhead Stadium.

“We are pleased to announce our alignment with the American Indian Community Working Group and details for American Indian Heritage Month this week,” Chiefs President Mark Donovan said. “This represents the culmination of a number of positive discussions that focused on educating our fans and creating awareness of American Indian history and heritage within the Chiefs Kingdom.”

The organization’s celebration of American Indian Heritage Month begins on Tuesday, Oct. 28 as LB Derrick Johnson, QB Tyler Bray and RB Charcandrick West will join the Haskell Indian Health Center Diabetes Prevention Program to host a Play 60 activity at Sports Pavilion Lawrence at Rock Chalk Park. The group will lead approximately 50 American Indian youth from the community in hand-eye coordination, agility and speed drills, and will also share the importance of overall health and nutrition.

On Friday, Oct. 31, Chiefs Ambassadors, Chiefs Cheerleaders and Chiefs Red Coaters will lead a literacy outreach effort at the Kickapoo Nation School in Powhatan, Kansas. Team representatives will discuss the importance of quality literacy skills. At the conclusion of the event, each child will be able to select an age-appropriate book from a table-top book fair.

“The partnership with the Chiefs has been an important opportunity to establish a dialogue that creates an awareness and understanding of who Native people are today,” said Gena Timberman, member of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma and American Indian Community Working Group Liaison to the Chiefs. “This is an ongoing journey; and, we believe we are moving in a positive direction.”

On Sunday, American Indian Heritage Month will be celebrated in a number of ways at Arrowhead Stadium. Outside of the stadium at Gate G, the American Indian Community Working Group will have a table in the Ford Fan Experience for cultural awareness.

Inside the stadium, there will be a number of blessings and special celebrations to honor American Indian heritage:

- Blessing of the Four Directions
  - Performed by Moses Starr Jr., a spiritual leader of the Cheyenne-Arapaho tribes from Concho, Okla.
  - Tribal leaders from a number of tribes with a historical presence in the Chiefs Kingdom will participate and will be accompanied by tribal representatives carrying their tribal sovereign nation flags.

- Drum Blessing Ceremony
  - Representatives from the Native community will bless the Chiefs drum, which is used before each game at Arrowhead Stadium.

--MORE--
- Honor Song
  - To be performed in recognition of former Kansas City Mayor H. Roe Bartle, for whom the Chiefs are named.
- American Indian Honor Color Guard
  - The We-Ta-Se, American Legion 410 Honor Color Guard, who are members of the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation, will present the colors for the day's game.
- National Anthem
  - Tabitha Fair, an Oklahoma native of Chickasaw descent, will perform the National Anthem along with the Chickasaw Nation Youth Choir.
- Drum Mallet Delivery
  - Spiritual leader Moses Starr Jr., joined by American Indian youth, will deliver the drum mallet to Chiefs Hall of Fame inductee and leader of the pregame drum ceremony, Priest Holmes.

Throughout the game, there will be additional educational information in-stadium over the public address system and ArrowVision to highlight American Indian Heritage Month. Information will also be available on the team's digital roster card on the Chiefs Mobile App.

--CHIEFS--
Timeline for Outreach Events Week of October 27

- **Tuesday, Oct. 28**
  - Chiefs, in conjunction with the Haskell Indian Health Center Diabetes Prevention Program, hosted a Play 60 activity at Sports Pavilion Lawrence at Rock Chalk Park.
  - Linebackers Derrick Johnson and Josh Martin, quarterback Tyler Bray and running back Charcandrick West led approximately 50 American Indian youth from the community in hand-eye coordination, agility and speed drills, and also shared the importance of overall health and nutrition.

- **Friday, Oct. 31**
  - Chiefs literacy outreach effort with Chiefs Cheerleaders, Chiefs Ambassadors and Chiefs Red Coaters at the Kickapoo National School in Powhattan, Kansas.
  - Participants discussed the importance of quality literary skills and read to local American Indian youth.
  - At the conclusion of the event, each child received a voucher to redeem an age-appropriate book from a table-top book fair station.
CHIEFS PLAYERS TO JOIN HASKELL INDIAN HEALTH CENTER
DIABETES PREVENTION PROGRAM FOR PLAY 60 EVENT

WHAT: Members of the Chiefs Community Caring Team, led by LB Derrick Johnson, QB Tyler Bray and RB Charcandrick West, are working with the Haskell Indian Health Center Diabetes Prevention Program to take the NFL Play 60 initiative to American Indian youth in Lawrence, Kan.

The event, for children in the third through seventh grades, will focus on overall health, nutrition, hand-eye coordination, agility and speed. Participants will be instructed by Chiefs players and will be given Play 60 activity books at the end of the event which the players will be able to autograph.

WHEN: Tuesday, Oct. 28, 4:30 – 5:30 p.m.

WHO: Members of the Chiefs Community Caring Team, including LB Derrick Johnson, QB Tyler Bray and RB Charcandrick West, along with approximately 50 American Indian youth from the Lawrence area (subject to change).

WHERE: Sports Pavilion Lawrence at Rock Chalk Park
100 Rock Chalk Lane
Lawrence, KS 66049

WHY: The Kansas City Chiefs have joined with the American Indian Community Working Group, in association with the American Indian Center of the Great Plains, to celebrate November as American Indian Heritage Month. As part of the club’s outreach efforts in honor of the month, the Chiefs are joining with Haskell Indian Health Center to serve American Indian youth.

The Kansas City Chiefs and the entire Hunt family have made corporate citizenship and charitable giving in the community a priority for the organization. Through club outreach initiatives, these efforts focus on many programs and groups which improve the civic climate in our region, support families and children in crisis, improve health and wellness among children while preserving the legacy and history of the game of football.

--CHIEFS--
MEDIA ADVISORY
Thursday, Oct. 30, 2014

CHIEFS REPRESENTATIVES TO HOST LITERACY OUTREACH EFFORT AT KICKAPOO NATION SCHOOL

WHAT: Members of the Chiefs Community Caring Team, including Chiefs Ambassadors, Chiefs Cheerleaders and Chiefs Red Coaters, will hold a literacy outreach effort for American Indian youth at the Kickapoo Nation School. While there, participants will discuss the importance of quality literacy skills. At the end of the event, each child will have the opportunity to select an age-appropriate book from a table-top book fair station.

WHEN: Friday, Oct. 31, 10 – 11 a.m.

WHO: Members of the Chiefs Community Caring Team, including Ambassadors, Cheerleaders and Red Coaters (subject to change).

WHERE: Kickapoo Nation School
400 First Street
Powhattan, KS 66527

WHY: The Kansas City Chiefs have joined with the American Indian Community Working Group, in association with the American Indian Center of the Great Plains, to celebrate November as American Indian Heritage Month. As part of the club’s outreach efforts in honor of the month, the Chiefs are joining with Kickapoo Nation School to serve American Indian youth.

The Kansas City Chiefs and the entire Hunt family have made corporate citizenship and charitable giving in the community a priority for the organization. Through club outreach initiatives, these efforts focus on many programs and groups which improve the civic climate in our region, support families and children in crisis, improve health and wellness among children while preserving the legacy and history of the game of football.

--CHIEFS--
American Indian Heritage Month Gameday Highlights

- **Blessing of the Four Directions**
  - Performed by Moses Starr Jr., a Cheyenne-Arapaho spiritual leader from Concho, Okla.
  - Tribal leaders from a number of tribes with a historic presence in the Chiefs Kingdom will participate and will be accompanied by tribal representatives carrying their tribal sovereign nation flags.

- **Drum Blessing Ceremony**
  - Moses Starr Jr. and the Cheyenne-Arapaho Singers will bless and prepare the Chiefs drum which is used before each game at Arrowhead Stadium.

- **Honor Song**
  - To be performed in recognition of former Kansas City Mayor H. Roe Bartle, for whom the Chiefs are named.

- **American Indian Color Guard**
  - The We-Ta-Se (pronounced Wah-deh-she) Honor Color Guard from American Legion 410, who are members of the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation, will present the colors for the game. The We-Ta-Se Honor Color Guard has previously displayed the colors at Arrowhead Stadium.

- **National Anthem**
  - Tabitha Fair, an Oklahoma native of Chickasaw descent, will perform the National Anthem along with the Chickasaw Nation Youth Choir.

- **Drum Mallet Delivery**
  - Spiritual leader Moses Starr Jr., joined by nine-year-old Arapaho Chiefs Harding George Levi, will deliver the drum mallet to Chiefs Hall of Fame inductee and leader of the pregame drum ceremony, Priest Holmes.

- **Additional Highlights:**
  - In-Stadium Quarter Break Information
    - 1st Quarter Break In-Stadium: American Indian educational information.
    - 2nd Quarter Break In-Stadium: PA read with video of pregame ceremonies.
    - 3rd Quarter Break In-Stadium: Video recap of spiritual leader delivering mallet to Priest Holmes.
    - 4th Quarter Break In-Stadium: Recap of Play 60 and literacy outreach events from earlier in the week.
  - Table and display at Ford Fan Experience (outside Arrowhead Gate G) for cultural awareness.
  - Gena Timberman joined Mitch Holthus to discuss American Indian Heritage Month during pregame on KCFX 101.1.
  - Roster Card Information available on Chiefs Mobile App.
Blessing of the Four Directions (9:45 a.m., 50-Yard Line)

- Mr. Moses Starr Jr., a spiritual leader of the Cheyenne-Arapaho tribes, is giving the Blessing of the Four Directions in the way of his people.
- Today’s blessing is meant to bring a sense of preparation and good spirit to this special day.
- The sacred directions are incorporated into the blessing.
- Tribal leaders and tribal representatives are encircling Mr. Starr. They are carrying the flags that represent their tribes as sovereign nations.
- These tribes involved in the ceremony today are tribes who have had a historic connection to the land around where we are today at Arrowhead Stadium.
- The presence of tribes today signifies that, despite historical challenges, they are still here.
- The visual representation on the field represents the diverse and vibrant American Indian cultures that surround us.

Drum Blessing Ceremony and Song (11:39-11:43 a.m., East Endzone)

- For Native cultures, the drum is not just a musical instrument. It holds great cultural and symbolic power.
- The drum has a life of its own, as well as its own powerful spirit.
- The drum is a heartbeat that calls communities and tribal nations together at powwows and other cultural gatherings in American Indian country.
- The drum is considered sacred and is to be treated with great respect by anyone who comes in contact with it.
- Many drum groups bless and name their drums in special ceremonies before sounding them at a powwow. Some drums even have their own song, which is sung as a warm-up at the beginning of the powwow or gathering.
- Today, the Cheyenne-Arapaho Singers prepare us for this special gathering at Arrowhead Stadium.
- The drum has been blessed and a special song will be performed before the drum is sounded in the Kansas City Chiefs tradition.

Honor Color Guard (11:57 a.m., South Sideline)

- A fitting tribute to American Indian Heritage Month, as well as November as military appreciation month, the We-Ta-Se (Wah-deh-she) Honor Color Guard joins us from the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation to display our nation’s colors.
- “We-Ta-Se” in the Potawatomi language means “One who is Brave” or “Brave Warrior.”
- The We-Ta-Se American Legion Post 410 was formed in 1989 to provide a proper “full” military burial for all of the Prairie Band Potawatomi veterans on the reservation and the honor guard for We-Ta-SE is also available for any veteran’s family that requests a military burial in the reservation’s immediate area.
The We-Ta-Se Color Guard performs at approximately 45 events annually.

The have presented postings colors for powwows, parades, sporting events, various school functions and many other special events all over the state of Kansas and some functions nationwide.

They have served as Color Guard here at Arrowhead Stadium before, as well as at Kansas City Royals games at Kauffman Stadium.

The group had the honor of leading 28 other American Indian Color Guards for the “Lori Piestewa” National Memorial, honoring the first Native American woman killed in combat while serving her country.

The We-Ta-Se Color Guard served as the Color Guard for the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial at eight separate events in Kansas and Missouri.

**National Anthem (11:57 a.m., South Sideline)**

Today’s National Anthem is being performed by Tabitha Fair and the Chickasaw Nation Youth Choir.

Born and raised in Oklahoma, Fair is a singer and songwriter of Chickasaw descent who currently resides in New York City.

She has performed in many notable capacities:

- Hope for Haiti Now Benefit Concert with Jennifer Hudson and Shakira.
- The prestigious Kennedy Center Honors for the past 12 years.
- Sting and Trudy’s all-star cast Rainforest Benefit Concert, alongside Elton John, Lady Gaga, Bruce Springsteen, Esperanza Spaulding, Lenny Kravitz, Sheryl Crow, Debra Harry and Sting.
- She has been a regular on the Jimmy Fallon Show singing background vocals for The Roots.

Since its beginnings in 2002, the Chickasaw Nation Youth Choir has had the honor of performing at milestone celebrations such as the “Ground blessing” of the American Indian Cultural Center in Oklahoma City, Okla., Governor Brad Henry’s Children’s Inauguration and numerous times at the Oklahoma State Capitol.

The choir also performs at a variety of tribal events, including the Chickasaw Annual Meeting and Festival, and Youth Arts Celebration.

Since music is such an important part of the Chickasaw lifestyle, the children’s choir has been an important opportunity for children to be engaged in music while learning the language of the Chickasaw Nation.

**Drum Mallet Delivery (12:00 p.m., East Endzone)**

Today, in a symbolic act of ceremony, Mr. Moses Starr Jr., elder of the Cheyenne and Arapaho tribes, will present the drum mallet to Chiefs Hall of Fame inductee Priest Holmes.

Starr is joined by nine-year-old Arapaho Chief Harding George Levi, symbolizing the importance of honoring our past while looking to our future – the children.
Tribes and Representatives Participating in American Indian Heritage Month

- Peoria Tribe
  - Chief John Froman and Councilman Craig Harper
  - Tribal Processional and Blessing
- Iowa Tribe of Kansas and Nebraska
  - Chairman Tim Rhodd
  - Tribal Processional and Blessing
- Cheyenne-Arapaho Tribes
  - Governor Eddie Hamilton  Lt. Governor Cornell Sankey
  - Tribal Processional and Blessing
- Northern Arapaho Tribe
  - William Gould, Member, Northern Arapaho Business Council
  - Tribal Processional and Blessing
- Citizen Potawatomi Nation
  - Tribal Legislators Jon Boursaw & Roy Slavin, Director of Citizen Potawatomi Cultural Heritage Center
  - Tribal Processional and Blessing
- Delaware Tribe
  - Former Chief Dee Ketchum
  - Tribal Processional and Blessing
- Wyandotte Nation
  - Chief Billy Friend
  - Tribal Processional and Blessing
- Kickapoo Tribe of Kansas
  - Chairman Lester Randall
  - Tribal Processional and Blessing
- Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation
  - Honor Color Guard
- Chickasaw Nation
  - National Anthem
Additional Educational Information provided by American Indian Community Working Group

• The Headdress and War Bonnet
  o Headdresses have deep spiritual and cultural meaning for Native Americans.
  o The feathered war bonnet is the headdress that many people typically associate with Native Americans, and is the one that popular culture most generally uses to portray American Indians.
  o Worn mostly by Northern and Southern Plains tribes, Native people create the regal crown by hand from the feathers of eagles, considered the sky’s greatest bird and believed to have the power to protect the wearer from harm.
  o The headdress is a symbol of leadership, and each feather is earned and shows a position of leadership.
  o Not everybody in Native cultures has the right to wear headdresses. They are reserved for special cultural or spiritual occasions.
  o While it might be the most recognizable to the general public, the war bonnet is not the only manner of headdress worn by American Indians.
  o All tribes and all indigenous nations have their particular headdress or regalia specific to their tribe.
  o Balance between the promotion of stereotypes and actual knowledge and respect for how American Indians use the headdress as a cultural treasure is always the goal.
  o The notion of Native people primarily existing in the past and open to acquisition by anyone is not compatible with understanding and respecting Native people as modern citizens of Sovereign Nations in our community today.

• War Paint
  o Like the feather of a headdress, face paint has purpose and often contains great spiritual significance depending on tribal protocol and individual interpretation.
  o Face paint, like feathers, is earned through actions and deeds that bring honor to both tribes and nations.
  o To many American Indians, the idea of individuals outside of the Native community who have not earned the right or permission to wear face paint would be analogous to casually wearing a military uniform and displaying medals when one has never served as an active member of the military.