CENTRAL COUNCIL OF THE TLINGIT & HAIDA INDIAN TRIBES OF ALASKA
Ninety-First Annual Tribal Assembly
September 23-25, 2026
Juneau, AK

Resolution TA 26-22

Title: Establishing a Dedicated National Federal Communications Emergency Alert System Event Code for Missing and Endangered Indigenous Persons

By: Seattle Tlingit & Haida Community Council

WHEREAS, the Central Council of Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska (Tlingit & Haida) is a federally recognized tribe with more than 38,000 citizens; and
WHEREAS, Native American communities continue to face significant challenges in addressing the issue of missing and endangered people, requiring immediate attention and action; and

WHEREAS, American Indian and Alaska Native peoples, especially women and girls, have long endured domestic violence, trafficking, sexual assault, and abuse at alarmingly disproportionate rates compared to other demographic groups, demanding urgent intervention; and

WHEREAS, Native American communities have historically been disproportionately affected by missing person cases, with the National Congress of American Indians stating in 2023 that Native Americans constitute 2.5% of all missing person cases despite comprising only 1.2% of the U.S. population, underscoring the urgent need for targeted measures; and

WHEREAS, Native American women are at an even greater risk of going missing or being endangered, with a 2008 U.S Department of Justice (DOJ) analysis finding that they are ten times more likely to fall victim to homicide in many counties in the nation; and

WHEREAS, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) data show that American Indian and Alaska Native women continue to experience disproportionate homicide risk, approximately 1.5 times the rate for U.S. women overall and twice the rate of white women, emphasizing the urgent need for focused attention and specialized support; and

WHEREAS, Alaska Native communities face unique challenges to addressing violence due to: (a) federal laws and policies that disrupted traditional Tribal governance and limited their ability to respond to violence, such as the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) of 1971, and (b) the remote nature of many Alaska villages that strains law enforcement capacity, factors which increase the need for additional support for Alaska Native communities; and

WHEREAS, the United States Government holds a trust and treaty obligation to provide for the public safety of American Indian and Alaska Native communities; and

WHEREAS, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) is the regulatory agency responsible for maintaining the list of approved Emergency Alert System (EAS) Event Codes; and

WHEREAS, the FCC announced in 2024 its intent to launch an EAS alert code for missing and endangered Indigenous people, citing in its Notice of Proposed Rule Making the need to address violence against Indigenous communities, historic underreporting and misclassification of such cases, and the need to facilitate law enforcement coordination across jurisdictions and state lines; and

WHEREAS, the FCC ultimately adopted the Missing and Endangered Persons (MEP) event code in August 2024, which covers all adults not covered by Amber or Silver Alerts, rather than being a dedicated and tailored event code for missing and murdered Indigenous people; and

WHEREAS, the MEP code is therefore insufficient to address the unique challenges and circumstances faced by missing and endangered Native American adults; and

WHEREAS, establishing a specific event code for missing and endangered Native American adults would guarantee that these cases receive the alerting attention over the nation’s Integrated Public Alert and Warning System (IPAWS) and the resources they rightly deserve, including increased federal funding for search and rescue efforts and comprehensive support for tribal law enforcement agencies and victim services programs; and

WHEREAS, a new FCC alert system would utilize already-established technical alert systems, thus having minimal fiscal impact with the potential for substantial impact on Indigenous communities; and

WHEREAS, four states (Washington, Colorado, California, and New Mexico) have established specific alert codes for Indigenous people, the outcomes of which have demonstrated the effectiveness of dedicated alerts in facilitating the safe recovery of missing individuals and the identification of deceased individuals;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Ninety-First Tribal Assembly of the Central Council of the Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska delegation convened September 23-25, 2026, hereby urges the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to adopt a National Emergency Alert System (EAS) event code specifically designated for missing and endangered Indigenous adults (adult persons over the age of 21 and thus not subject to Amber alerts), enhancing their chances of being located and protected in a timely and effective manner;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Tribal Assembly of the Central Council of Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska calls upon Congress to pass legislation that mandates the creation of this code and establishes the necessary funding to support the implementation of this life-saving event code;

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the Tribal Assembly of the Central Council of Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska urges the FCC to conduct a report quantifying how many Indigenous people have been reported through the current Missing and Endangered Persons alert code, and identifying the outcomes.

ADOPTED this 23rd day of September 2026, by the Ninety-First Tribal Assembly of the Central Council of the Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska

CERTIFY

President Richard J. Peterson

ATTEST

Tribal Secretary Jacqueline L. Pata