

PRESS RELEASE – 9/12/18

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**SENECA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
WARNS COUNTY RESIDENTS OF CAYUGA INDIAN
CLAIM TO HAVE FORMED A “POLICE FORCE”**

The Cayuga Indian Nation (CIN), owners of property in the Towns of Seneca Falls and Varick, claim that they have established a police department. Last night, the Seneca County Board of Supervisors passed a resolution pointing out the fact that no employee of the CIN has law enforcement authority in Seneca County or in the State of New York and that citizens should be on their guard for persons operating vehicles marked so as to suggest the existence of a legitimate Indian “police force” operating in Seneca County.

Varick Supervisor Bob Hayssen, Chairman of the Board’s Indian Affairs Committee said “It is important that the citizens of Seneca County be aware of this situation. They should not stop for these people and if possible call 911 and ask for assistance from the Seneca County Sheriff's Department.”

The Board Resolution points to the United States Supreme Court decision regarding Oneida Indian claims in the City of Sherrill, New York, establishing that the Cayuga tribe may not exercise the kind of sovereign authority in the former Indian Land Claim area that would be associated with police power.

Seneca County Attorney Frank Fisher noted “Unless and until the CIN is granted land to be taken into trust by the Department of the Interior on their behalf, they have no authority to exercise police power in New York State, either on or off properties they own or over New York State residents whether they are Indians or not.”

(Copy of Seneca County Board of Supervisors Resolution No. 245-18 attached)