TRANSCRIPT OF TELECONFERENCE JUNE 17, 2020

PARTICIPANTS:

- Tara Sweeney, Assistant Secretary, Indian Affairs,
 United States Department of Interior
- Douglas L. Hoelscher, Deputy Assistant to the President, Director of Intergovernmental Affairs, Washington, D.C.
- Harold Frazier, Chairman, Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe Charles Addington, Director, Office of Justice

Services, Bureau of Indian Affairs

Kyle Scherer, Deputy Solicitor of Indian Affairs

Darryl La Counte, Director, Bureau of Indian Affairs

Tim LaPointe, Great Plains Regional Director of the

Bureau of Indian Affairs

Jim James, Deputy Bureau Director, Bureau of Indian Affairs

Jason O'Neal, Office of Justice Services

1	TARA SWEENEY: Uh, this is Assistant
2	Secretary Tara Sweeney. On the line we have
3	Charlie Addington, Kyle Scherer, Darryl La
4	Counte, Tim LaPointe, Jim James and Jason
5	O'Neal, uh, all with, uh, B.I.A., Indian
6	Affairs, and B.I.A., O.J.S., uh, and I believe
7	at some point Doug Hoelscher, uh, with the
8	White House may be calling in.
9	DOUGLAS HOELSCHER: Hi, Assistant
10	Secretary, I'm here.
11	TARA SWEENEY: Oh, welcome, Doug.
12	HAROLD FRAZIER: Okay. Thank you.
13	TARA SWEENEY: Sure. Uh, and, uh, I I
14	assume, uh, based on our previous calls we have
15	representatives from your office and the Tribal
16	Council on the line?
17	HAROLD FRAZIER: Yes, ma'am.
18	TARA SWEENEY: Okay. Uh, you know, first
19	and foremost I want to start off, uh, simply
20	by, uh, thanking you for remaining, uh, engaged
21	on this issue as we work through, uh, two
22	primary issues, uh, and and the driver for
23	our discussions that began on June 7, uh, has
24	been the health and the safety and the
25	well-being of the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe,

1	uh, your tribal citizens and certainly your
2	communities, and, uh, from my perspective I
3	believe that we have engaged in some very
4	positive dialogue that allows, uh, both Indian
5	Affairs and the tribe to exchange information
6	and understand the decisions for both of our
7	organizations. And for that I am thankful for
8	this, uh, exchange.
9	I want to reiterate that I am committed to
10	finding a solution and I do believe, uh, we
11	we need some resolution.
12	HAROLD FRAZIER: Okay. Yeah, we oh, go
13	ahead.
14	TARA SWEENEY: No.
15	HAROLD FRAZIER: Go ahead. I'm sorry I
16	cut you off.
17	TARA SWEENEY: No, sorry to interrupt.
18	HAROLD FRAZIER: Well, I thank you guys
19	for allowing us to visit with the doctor on
20	on Monday. Um, after, uh, listening to her and
21	things like that, I think it's for us and
22	looking at the technology that, um, you guys
23	proposed, uh, uh, you know, things like that
24	will just not set into the program that we are
25	doing as far as tracing and stuff like that.

TARA SWEENEY: Uh, I'm sorry to hear that.

Uh, as you know, uh, B.I.A., O.J.S., uh, has offered to, uh, provide the -- the technology that includes the, um, video monitoring system.

Uh, they were and -- and are willing to provide four monitoring equipment stations at each end of the reservation, uh, and four license plate readers, also located at each end of the reservation.

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Uh, B.I.A. is, uh, also willing to supplement, uh, the -- the technology portion with additional officers along, uh, U.S. 212, and, uh, South Dakota 63 at locations that, uh, are chosen by, uh, the tribe and -- and strategically located so that if, uh, there are travelers who attempt to leave those main arteries, that they are in a position to -- to help the tribe respond, uh, and, you know, looking at the enhanced mitigation efforts, uh, with Dr. Birx, uh, and -- and the continued relationship working with the tribe on those types of mitigation efforts, uh, if the support was needed. Uh, I think that's the -- the kind of package deal that we were, uh -- we -- we put forward, uh, for consideration by the

tribe, so I just want to make sure, uh, that there's a clear understanding of what we have, um, put forward and that, uh, based on that understanding, uh, the tribe has declined to accept those services.

HAROLD FRAZIER: 'cause do you have like over 15 -- over 500 officers available? And -- and the reason why I say that is when you travel along them highways you are referring to, there is so many outlets on them roads that where people could get off on and -- and make contact with -- with the residents of this reservation. I mean, this is a large road, you know, and, I mean, I don't know if you have the -- the resources to do that, to ensure that nobody is getting off these roads 'cause there is so many back roads, uh, on these, uh, two highways.

DOUGLAS HOELSCHER: Mr. Chairman, this is Doug Hoelscher. Uh, I grew up in rural Iowa which I think I mentioned, uh, uh, uh, on one, on one of our previous cases, and so I -- I -- I get the lots of back roads that, uh, going to different landscapes, but, uh, I imagine just as like where I grew up there is -- there is a

couple probably main, uh, turn-offs that lead to the -- the majority of your population, and I think this is all about res space and I think what you heard from Dr. Birx and the health professionals is that they have real concerns about the way that you are doing this, you actually could be increasing the risk for your citizens, uh, which is something that, uh, uh, uh, I don't think any of us should be in favor of, um so if there is any -- uh, I imagine there, on your reservation there is some pockets of -- of -- of population that have, I'm guessing has the bulk of your -- your population there on the reservation, and so it's really a matter of using those, uh, those additional, uh, uh, officers to be at strategic points on the reservation, uh, to -- to, uh, to get that 80 percent. Well, you know, I -- I HAROLD FRAZIER: think that it's important that, you know, why

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HAROLD FRAZIER: Well, you know, I -- I think that it's important that, you know, why we're doing this and that is to keep our people safe, and what we are doing, they feel safe. Uh, if we were to, uh, do what you guys are recommending, then again, we would prefer, uh, officers 24/7 on every point that they could

access from 'cause trust me, we see it where, uh, people eventually, uh, with Google, with every GPS system and things like that, people are, we know about, they, a lot of travelers already have their routes cut out and -- and they know back roads because that's one of the things, uh, we don't have, uh, you know, to watch every road, uh, every entry point into our reservation, so there has been lot of, uh, uh. out-of-state travelers that have been popping up, uh, within our reservation and -and we check into it, they have not went through a check point and, uh, you know, uh, and so that's how they're coming through is through one of them roads, you know, that are on now GPS and stuff so it's been definitely a challenge, you know, to monitor every entry point, and then that's, why, uh, if we were going to do something like this, we would definitely need, uh, personnel 24/7 at every one of these, you know, and -- and I'm just doing a rough estimate. That's probably 500 officers just for, uh,

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That's probably 500 officers just for, uh, one shift because now really thinking more about it, there is so many, uh, uh, places

along these highways that people could get off on and -- and come and mingle amongst our people.

DOUGLAS HOELSCHER: Well, Mr. Chairman, it seems like you, uh, you're, uh, declining the offer for the enhanced technology and enhanced support for the (inaudible) on check point.

Maybe we could, uh, just, uh, pivot the conversation to, uh, your tribe has gotten way out of compliance on, uh, the law enforcement, um, not having the right records on hand, not doing the, um, the background checks and therefore, you have, uh, endangered, uh, the people that you are elected to serve, uh, and so how can we get into compliance on, uh, your law enforcement so, um, you have law enforcement that has -- has the required background checks and the -- the, uh, the required uh, uh, uh, training documentation and make sure that's up and current so your people are served safely by their public safety officers?

I know, Tara, maybe you and your team can talk a little bit about your commitment to help do that, and I know that, uh, you know, in

other circumstances, uh, um, you maybe have not been so patient but you have been very patient, I think, with a tribe that has gone greatly out of compliance with their previous commitments, so how can we work together to address those things?

TARA SWEENEY: Thank you, uh, thank you, Doug. I do have an update, Chairman, that I would -- I -- I just kind of want to walk you through a summarized timeline and, um, just provide the background information on the law enforcement component.

HAROLD FRAZIER: Okay.

TARA SWEENEY: So, you know, on right around May 30th, May 31st, uh, we had officers travel to, uh, the reservation on a fact-finding mission, and as you know, as I stated in the previous letters, um, during that time, uh, check point operators were representing themselves as tribal law enforcement, uh, which raised concerns, uh, and we, uh, we sent a letter, uh, outlining those concerns, and, um, the potential for an emergency reassumption of law enforcement services if these, uh, issues weren't

addressed, and then, uh, our law enforcement, uh, traveled to the reservation to do, uh, some -- some inspections of the files and in that -- uh, during that time is where, uh, it was discovered that 22 of the 26, uh, tribal law enforcement officers did not have the appropriate background documents, uh, in their files, uh, and that ten of the 26 of the tribal officers did not have, uh, complete records of the required basic training.

Uh, we -- we again sent correspondence notifying the tribe of the programs' deficiencies and the high liabilities, uh, with respect to the 638 contract, uh, and I believe O.J.S. has, uh, communicated with the tribe that in order for the tribe to retain its law enforcement contracts or to avoid emergency reassumption, there were some immediate steps that needed to take place, uh, including having, uh, uh, officers have a favorable background investigation rating that's completed and adjudicated by trained and qualified security personnel, uh, that the -- they have to see the performance of law enforcement duties for the officers who do not

1	who have not successfully completed an
2	approved basic officer training program, uh,
3	and, uh, that, uh, the any sort of patches,
4	badges, insignia on the the uniforms or
5	clothing of, uh, tribal employees needed to
6	to be removed and and all of that is is
7	uh, also driven by, uh, the need to ensure, uh,
8	that your law enforcement officers are
9	protected, uh, from, um, liability under the
10	Federal Tort Claims Act, and, uh, my concern is
11	that being out of compliance with the 638
12	contract, they may be held personally liable
13	for their actions and so, uh, I instructed
14	B.I.A., O.J.S. to work cooperatively with the
15	tribe and provide technical and manpower
16	assistance as needed if requested by the tribe,
17	and I want to underscore, uh, if requested by
18	the tribe, uh, and and that's important to
19	me, uh, because, uh, of the comments that you
20	had made earlier in our conversations about the
21	concern for, uh, a B.I.A., O.J.S. presence on
22	the reservation because of some very
23	deep-seated history with the department, and,
24	um, but be I I also want to, uh, clarify
25	that if the tribe requests assistance. uh.

B.I.A., O.J.S. has offered to conduct and adjudicate these background investigations, uh, for the tribal employees hired under the contract that may not have, uh, the appropriate documentation in their files.

Uh, also if requested by the tribe, um, B.I.A., O.J.S. will, uh, temporarily detail officers, uh, to the tribal police department to provide supplemental services during the completion of the corrective actions, uh, activities.

And then, uh, if requested by the tribe, B.I.A., O.J.S., uh, has also offered to assist all untrained personnel under this contract and, uh, they have, uh, they have indicated to me that the training can start as soon as July 6th of this year, and so those were the actions that I know B.I.A. has been -- uh, B.I.A., O.J.S. has been involved with since we began our conversations and -- and I do also want to recognize where the tribe, uh, has been accommodating, so, you know, on -- on June 9 you -- the tribe furnished and provided access to these law enforcement files for inspection by B.I.A., O.J.S.

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Uh, you -- the tribe has also agreed, uh, to rescind the law enforcement deputation of the tribal employees working at the check points and again, as I stated, removing all law enforcement insignia from their uniforms or, uh, their attire.

Uh, and it's been reported to me that on June 16 the B.I.A., O.J.S. staff traveled, uh, to the reservation and met with the tribe's attorney general, uh, the chief of police and H.R. office regarding the contract deficiencies and discussed the immediate actions that need to take place to ensure that there is contract compliance, uh, and during that time, uh, there — during the inspection period, again, highlighted the need for the ten of the 26 and the 22 of the — or 21 of the 26, uh, to have the appropriate documentation with respect to training or background investigation.

Uh, B.I.A., O.J.S. has offered to send additional staff again to assist the tribe in completing these, uh, requirements, uh, and, you know, B.I.A., O.J.S. has reported to me that the tribe's human resource officer -- offices are, uh, working, uh, with B.I.A.,

O.J.S. to, uh, take the steps necessary, uh, to come into compliance, uh, and -- and so I feel like we're making progress on that front, and I appreciate the, uh, the engagement and the good faith the tribe has shown to come into compliance, um, (coughing), excuse me.

These types of measures will help the tribe retain its law enforcement program, uh, and maintain its focus on public safety on the reservation, and I -- what I want you to know uh, as we, um, continue our conversation, that I have instructed B.I.A., O.J.S. to provide me with a compliance project plan and weekly report so that my office can track the progress towards full compliance, and, uh, as we continue along this path working cooperatively towards compliance so that the tribe can retain its 638 contract and address the, uh, issues that have been raised. So I welcome your concurrence to close this matter until such time that warrants further discussion.

HAROLD FRAZIER: Yeah, I -- I agree with that. We had a -- I met briefly with the, uh, the B.I.A. personnel yesterday and -- and I thought our discussion went real well. Uh, we

T	will be following up in writing today and we
2	will get that sent to you on our request
3	because, uh, we we seem to everybody
4	seemed to have a pretty good game plan, and
5	and, you know, back in 2015, I mean, this was
6	way before your time, uh, uh uh, Tara, but back
7	then, you know, we we they did a review
8	and and we were working on it and I have
9	several letters that I produced and I can still
10	produce copies of them where, uh, we asked for
11	such assistance back in '15, '16 and '17 to,
12	you know, help us get that resolved and I I
13	haven't, I have been researching in our stuff
14	to because at some point we we have to
15	have been in compliance because, uh, you know,
16	the B.I.A. had stopped talking even though
17	they're required to come every year to review
18	our contract, but anyway, regardless, uh, glad
19	that is finally happening because I did write
20	some letters in the past to ask for assistance
21	and and we will be looking forward to
22	working with you guys to resolve these, uh, uh,
23	issues.
24	DOUGLAS HOELSCHER: Yes, and Chairman,

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Doug Hoelscher again. like I said, I can't do

1	anything, uh, uh, with what the Obama
2	Administration did or did not do, um, but you
3	have my commitment to make sure that we work
4	again to get this going, and I hear a lot fear
5	from from Tara and Charlie and their team at
6	B.I.A. but again, you guys also have
7	responsibility of meeting those contractual
8	requirements, uh, and which aren't happening
9	right now so your leadership and partnership to
10	help make that happen are really important.
11	HAROLD FRAZIER: Oh, yeah, yes, sir, you
12	betcha. Yeah, we're well, we're committed
13	too, we don't want to be out of compliance on
14	anything. We want to, uh, live up to the
15	agreements that we made and that's something
16	that we will definitely work hard to resolve.
17	TARA SWEENEY: Okay. I I certainly
18	appreciate that. Uh, Chairman, do you have any
19	any additional questions or comments for,
20	uh, Indian Affairs?
21	HAROLD FRAZIER: Not at this time other
22	than can you guys fix our roads?
23	TARA SWEENEY: Uh, you know, I I can
24	the Regional Director, uh, Tim LaPointe, can
25	tell you that we have had uh T have made

1	requests for, uh, the Great Plains
2	Transportation Plan and I have been digging in
3	and asking questions and looking at authorities
4	and funding formulas so this transportation,
5	uh, issue and on your reservation is something
6	that is a topic of of analysis and
7	discussion.
8	HAROLD FRAZIER: Oh, good.
9	TARA SWEENEY: I didn't hear you.
10	HAROLD FRAZIER: Oh, I did, I I did
11	submit a letter a while back asking for copies
12	of any easements and stuff that you guys would
13	have on these two particular roads. Uh, I
14	haven't received anything yet and I don't know
15	if our letter got lost or what but we can
16	re-send that letter, uh, asking for copies of
17	any easements pertaining to these two roads.
18	TARA SWEENEY: No, your letter did not get
19	lost. Uh, I have received that letter, uh,
20	and, you know, we are continuing to, uh, pull
21	together the information, the any sort of
22	analysis that that we have and, you know, I
23	also welcome, if you have, uh, documentation
24	that you would like for us to consider in our
25	discussions, I welcome that and would encourage

1	you to submit that to the Regional Director,
2	Tim LaPointe.
3	HAROLD FRAZIER: Oh, okay. Okay. Yep,
4	sure will. Thank you.
5	TARA SWEENEY: Yes, I will, uh I will
6	be sending you a letter, uh, that just kind of
7	sums our conversation here, uh, along with the
8	timeline that I that I, uh, recently
9	conveyed.
10	HAROLD FRAZIER: Okay. Thank you.
11	TARA SWEENEY: Okay. Thank you and thank
12	you for your time.
13	HAROLD FRAZIER: Yep. You guys all have a
14	good day. Thank you, guys.
15	(End of teleconference.)
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1	- C E R T I F I C A T E -
2	CTATE OF NEDDACKA)
3	STATE OF NEBRASKA) SS.
4	COUNTY OF DOUGLAS)
5	I, Bonnie Price, Court Reporter and General
6	Notary Public of the State of Nebraska, do hereby
7	certify that the foregoing is a true and correct
8	transcript of the teleconference held on June 17,
9	2020, to the best of my ability and knowledge;
10	That I am not a relative or an attorney of
11	either party or otherwise interested in the event of
12	any action or proceeding.
13	Dated this 17th day of June, 2020.
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17	GENERAL NOTARY PUBLIC
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