WHEREAS, on May 21, 2020, the Tribal Council of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians ("MBCI" or the “Tribe”) approved Ordinance 16-VVVV, which modified Title XIII of the Choctaw Tribal Code by adding the Emergency Health Powers Code; and

WHEREAS, the Emergency Health Powers Code authorizes the Tribal Chief to declare a State of Public Health Emergency in response to an occurrence or imminent threat of an illness or health condition that is believed to be caused by an Infectious and/or Communicable Disease and poses a high probability of widespread illness or a large number of deaths or serious or long-term disability among persons; and

WHEREAS, on May 19, 2020, I declared a thirteenth extension of the Executive Order and State of Emergency Proclamation initially declared on March 15, 2020, pursuant to Ordinance 50-A and in response to the ongoing public health threat posed by Coronavirus Disease 2019 (“COVID-19”); and

WHEREAS, COVID-19, a respiratory disease that can result in serious illness or death, especially among the elderly or persons who have compromised immune systems, can spread easily from person to person, and the United States Centers for Disease Control ("CDC") has identified the potential public health threat posed by COVID-19 as "very high" in the United States; and

WHEREAS, on March 11, 2020, the Mississippi State Department of Health confirmed the first presumptive case of COVID-19 in Mississippi and as of May 21, 2020, there were 12,222 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Mississippi and 580 deaths, and there were 373 confirmed cases of COVID-19 for persons who are eligible to receive healthcare services at the Choctaw Health Center and 21 deaths; and

WHEREAS, the aforesaid conditions of public health are expected to worsen due to the person-to-person transmission throughout Mississippi and MBCI’s tribal lands, and said conditions will significantly impact the life and health of tribal members as well as the economy of the Tribe and warrant and necessitate a proclamation of a State of Public Health Emergency in order to provide for the health and safety of the tribal citizens, employees and visitors; and

WHEREAS, all available actions must be taken to reduce the spread and alleviate the impact of COVID-19 on MBCI’s tribal lands; and

WHEREAS, during a State of Public Health Emergency, the Chief Medical Officer of the Choctaw Health Center is authorized to issue orders for individuals to voluntarily isolate or quarantine and to seek Tribal Court enforcement in cases of non-compliance and, criminal codes
are also now available for the enforcement of non-compliance with orders of quarantine or isolation; and

WHEREAS, during a State of Public Health Emergency, the Tribal Chief is authorized to exercise all powers and authority set forth in Ordinance 50-A; and

WHEREAS, this State of Public Health Emergency shall expire thirty (30) days from the date of issuance, unless renewed as provided by the Emergency Health Powers Code; now

THREFORE, I, Cyrus Ben, Chief of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians, pursuant to the authority vested in me in the Emergency Health Powers Code, declare that a State of Public Health Emergency now exists on MBCI’s tribal lands and declare that all persons authorized to take certain action under Title XIII shall do so expeditiously to prevent the further spread of COVID-19; and I further declare that all prior State of Emergency Proclamations issued pursuant to Ordinance 50-A are a part of this State of Public Health Emergency and remain in full force and effect.

[Signature]

CYRUS BEN, TRIBAL CHIEF

[Date]

5/21/2020

SEAL

“Choctaw Self-Determination”