

ROUND VALLEY INDIAN TRIBES

A Sovereign Nation of Confederated Tribes

TRIBAL COUNCIL OFFICE
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LOCATION: ON STATE HWY 162
ONE MILE NORTH OF COVELO
IN ROUND VALLEY
TRIBAL TERRITORY SINCE TIME BEGAN

ROUND VALLEY RESERVATION ESTABLISHED 1856

PRESS RELEASE

August 18, 2016

To the Round Valley Tribal Community:

Recent events in our Tribal Government have led to Tribal Council President, James Russ, to turn potentially incriminating information regarding two Tribal Council members and the Tribal Interim Fiscal Controller over to local law enforcement. This information was sent anonymously to James Russ as Tribal President and led to the Council members in question being sanctioned for potential violations to the Tribal Council Code of Ethics.

This information is related to the conduct of the three individuals in their capacity as Tribal employees. The information received strongly suggests that Tribal assets were misused, and the three individuals were suspended from their duties. The Council is committed to providing due process of law to the affected individuals, but in order to fulfill its fiduciary duty, the Council concluded it was compelled to impose the suspensions, pending an investigation of the allegations.

The federal authorities were also notified due to implied misuse of federal funds. The Council has retained legal counsel and will be conducting a limited fraud audit of our Tribal funds. Due to this matter being under investigation, Council is unable to discuss this matter. To be clear, the Tribal Council is not charging anybody with any crimes, but we have a fiduciary responsibility to our community and the federal government and all Tribal Council members take an oath of office to protect our Tribe, Tribal members, and uphold our Tribal Constitution.