



Baramaya Guainia Clan Nation

Re-formalized December 15, 2015

Constitution of the Baramaya Guainia Clan

BORIKEN TERRITORY

Constitution of the Taino Tribal Nation

Baramaya Guainia Clan

Adopted 8/1/2016

ARTICLE I: NAME –

“Taino Tribal Nation» hereafter referred to as “TNN”

ARTICLE II: MISSION, VISION, MOTTO & FOUNDING –

Section I: Mission –

To provide and promote opportunities for community, economic and personal & professional development, educational attainment and social and civic activism for members of the Taino Tribal Nation.

Section II: Vision –

To preserve, promote and cultivate Taino Tribal Nation Aboriginal history, culture and tradition to and for the greater community.

Section III: Motto –

“Guali’ Guey¹”

Section III: Formalization Date –

August 1st , 2016

Section IV: Founding Location –

Providence, Rhode Island

ARTICLE III: MEMBERSHIP –

Section I: Qualifications –

*Tribal Body Membership in the Taino Tribal Nation is open to any individual of Taino Indian Decent who can show **Proof of Lineage** to the Taino Tribal Nation by demonstrating a **bloodline** connection to a) the **Taino Indian Territories of Boriken (Puerto Rico)** prior to Spanish occupation from 1500 to 1890 via historical birth or marriage documentation or b) **United States Government Census Reports of bloodline lineage prior to 1925** or c) **historical documents identifying a direct ancestor as a Member of the Taino Tribal Nation.***

*Tribal Body Membership is considered a **birthright** for individuals of Taino Indian decent. Once an individual of Taino Indian decent has been **accepted and approved** for Tribal Body Membership it is **illegal** to strip this individual of their Tribal Body Membership **at any point, for any reason.** Members may have certain **rights and privileges suspended** per decision*

¹ translation: Children of the Sun

of a *Cacique*², and/or the *Caney*³ Circle as outlined in this Constitution, but **under no circumstances** are to be stripped of their Tribal Body Membership

All *guali*⁴ born to any Tribal Body Member shall be considered Tribal Body Members themselves.

Section II: Process –

Tribal Body Membership shall be open to any individual that has met the following criteria:

1. Provided Proof of Lineage to the **Taino Tribal Nation** by demonstrating a **bloodline** connection to a) the **Taino Indian Territories of Boriken (Puerto Rico)** prior to Spanish occupation from 1500 to 1890 via historical birth or marriage documentation or b) **United States Government Census Reports of bloodline lineage prior to 1925** or c) **historical documents identifying a direct ancestor as a Member of the Taino Tribal Nation.**
2. Had their documentation approved by the Tribal Genealogist
3. Taken the TTN “Oath of Revocation” to renounce their membership in any other Tribe or Clan of the Taino Tribal Nation^{5 6}
 - a. Tribal Body Members under sixteen (16) years of age shall be required to complete this step at the next available induction ceremony following their sixteenth (16th) birthday
 - b. Failure to comply will result in loss of Member in Good Standing (MGS) status
4. Taken the TTN “Oath of Allegiance”⁷
 - a. Tribal Body Members under eighteen (18) years of age shall be required to complete this step at the next available induction ceremony following their eighteenth (18th) birthday
 - b. Failure to comply will result in loss of MGS status
5. Been approved by the 1st Caney and Tribal Secretary

Section III: Duties, Responsibilities & Privileges –

All Tribal Body Members are subject to and shall abide by all rules and regulations of the TTN as set forth in this Constitution, and as may be adopted by any Tribe or Clan with approval from the Tribal Body Membership. Associated duties, responsibilities and privileges are as follow:

1. All Tribal Body Members who are MGS shall be eligible to vote on all matters pertaining to the TTN as set forth in this Constitution.
 - a. A MGS shall be defined as an individual:
 - i. Accepted and approved for Tribal Body Membership
 - ii. Eighteen (18) years of age or older
 - iii. Who has attended a minimum of three-fourths ($\frac{3}{4}$) of all Quarterly Tribal Body Meetings in the past calendar year
 - iv. In good financial standing with the TTN
 - v. Eligible to vote as outlined in this Constitution

² translation: Chief

³ translation: Elders

⁴ translation: Children

⁵ Mandatory to safeguard against conflict of interests that may arise as a result of maintaining membership in more than one Taino Indian tribal nation

⁶ Failure to comply with this requirement will result in revocation of Tribal Body Membership application

⁷ Failure to comply with this requirement will result in revocation of Tribal Body Membership application

2. All Tribal Body Members who are MGS, unless otherwise stipulated in this Constitution, shall be eligible to hold any Tribal Officer, Cacique or Caney position
3. All Tribal Body Members shall be required to pay monthly dues to support the programs and initiatives that the TTN may support and/or endorse in order to be considered a MGS.
 - a. Dues shall be ten (10) dollars per Quarter for all Tribal Body Members eighteen (18) years of age or older
 - b. MGS may pay an annual fee of forty (40) dollars to cover their individual dues for the year
 - c. Tribal Body Members who are in arrears of their monthly dues for a period of greater than two (2) months, or for two (2) or more consecutive months:
 - i. May have their voting privileges suspended
 - ii. Will not be able to hold/pursue Tribal Officer, Cacique or Caney positions
4. All Tribal Body Members shall be required to have attended a minimum of three-fourths (3/4) of all Monthly Tribal Body Meetings within the past calendar year to be considered a MGS
 - a. Failure to comply with this requirement may result in suspension of voting privileges
 - b. Failure to comply with this requirement will result in suspension of ability to hold/pursue Tribal Officer, Cacique or Caney positions
5. All Tribal Body Members shall be issued a Tribal Body Membership Roll Number (RN) to identify them as a member of the TTN.
6. All Tribal Body Members thirteen (13) years of age or older shall be issued a “Guaili Guazabara⁸ Card” (GC) to identify them as a member of the TTN.
 - a. The following information shall be displayed on each individual’s GC.
 - i. TTN Name
 - ii. TTN Symbol
 - iii. Native Given Name
 - iv. Government Issued Name
 - v. TTN Clan or Tribe Affiliation
 - vi. TTN RN
 - vii. Date of Birth
 - viii. Individual Signature
 - ix. Photo of Tribal Body Member
 - b. Associated costs for issuing an initial GC shall be covered by the TTN; Associated costs for issuing an additional or replacement GC shall be the responsibility of the individual Tribal Body Member, at a price to be determined by the Caney Circle

Section IV: Classification –

There shall be four (4) officially recognized classifications of Tribal Body Membership status for the TTN. They shall consist of:

1. **Birthright Tribal Members:**
 - a. Individuals of Taino Indian Decent who have been accepted and approved for Tribal Body Membership
 - b. Entitled to all associated “Tribal Body Privileges”.
 - i. Tribal Body Privileges include:
 1. Voting eligibility

⁸ Youth Warrior

- a. Must be a MGS
 - b. Entitled to one vote per MGS on TTN Matters
 2. Holding Tribal Officer, Cacique or Caney positions
 3. Participation in Tribal Body discussions and functions during all meetings open to the Tribal Body Membership at large
 4. Recommending additions and/or amendments to this Constitution
 5. Attendance at and participation in TTN associated activities and functions
 6. Receiving pertinent TTN documentation and communications
 7. Receiving a TTN RN
 8. Receiving a GC
 - a. Neechanog who are born to TTN Tribal Body Members shall be considered Tribal Body Members themselves
 - i. Bibibaba⁹ shall complete the TTN Tribal Body Membership application process on behalf of their quali⁹ as outlined in this Constitution
2. **Adopted Tribal Members:**
 - a. Individuals who can not identify lineage to the Taino Indian Tribe, but have been accepted and approved for Tribal Body Membership
 - i. Must be nominated for adoption by a Bibi¹⁰, Cacique, Caney¹¹
 1. Must be approved by a three-fourths ($\frac{3}{4}$) majority of the Caney Circle
 - ii. Entitled to all associated “Tribal Body Privileges” excluding
 1. Voting Eligibility
 2. Holding an Cacique or Active Caney position
3. **Honorary Tribal Members:**
 - a. Individuals who can not identify lineage to the Taino Indian Tribe and are not members of the TTN, but are viewed as valuable to the continued positive development of the TTN
 - i. Must be nominated for Honorary Status by a Caney
 - ii. May hold membership in another Tribal Nation
 - iii. Must be approved by a three-fourths ($\frac{3}{4}$) majority of Caney Circle
 - iv. May be present at and participate in Caney Circle meetings, but are not entitled to Caney voting privileges
 - b. Entitled to all associated “Tribal Body Privileges” excluding:
 - i. Voting eligibility
 - ii. Holding a Tribal Officer, Cacique or Active Caney position
 - iii. Receiving a TTN RN
4. **Associate Tribal Members:**
 - a. Individuals who cannot identify lineage to the Taino Indian Tribe, but have become associated with the TTN through marriage to a Tribal Body Member who is a MGS
 - i. Limited to the immediate family members of the related Tribal Body Member

⁹ translation: Parents (mothers & fathers)

¹⁰ translation: Clan Mother

¹¹ translation: Elder

- ii. Must be recommended for Associate Member status by the related Tribal Body Member
- iii. Must provide proof of documentation for relationship
- iv. Must be accepted and approved for Tribal Body Membership
- v. May be removed from Tribal Body Membership if they become separated or divorced from the related Tribal Body Member
- vi. May be granted Adopted Tribal Membership status in the case of death of their related Tribal Body Member
 - 1. Must follow procedure for becoming an Adopted Tribal Member, as outlined in this Constitution
- b. Entitled to all associated “Tribal Body Privileges” excluding:
 - i. Voting eligibility
 - ii. Holding a Tribal Officer, Cacique or Active Caney position

ARTICLE IV: STRUCTURE & GOVERNANCE

Section I: Governing Bodies –

The TTN shall be comprised of five (3) Governing Bodies. These Governing Bodies shall consist of the: 1) Caney Circle; 2) Cacique Circle; 3) Guazabara Circle. The structure, duties, responsibilities, rights and privileges associated with these Governing Bodies shall be as follows:

1. Caney Circle –

*Caney shall be classified as one (1) of two (2) types: “**Standing Caney**” or “**Select Caney**”. A “**Standing Caney**” shall be defined as any Caney appointed by an Ókasohneummoncheg to sit in the Caney Circle. A “**Select Caney**” shall be defined as any Caney appointed by the PomhamCaney to sit in the Caney Circle.*

- a. Purpose:
 - i. To serve as the Oversight Board (Board of Directors) for the daily activities and operations of the TTN
 - ii. To serve as a Conflict Resolution Board (Judgment Panel) for Matters pertaining to the TTN
 - iii. To ensure that the interests of the Tribal Body Membership are pursued and implemented
 - iv. To serve as the Internal Affairs Committee of the TTN
- b. Requirements:
 - i. Must be a MGS
 - ii. Must be twenty-one (21) years of age or older
 - iii. Must be eligible to hold an Caney position, as outlined in this Constitution
 - iv. Must be appointed to sit in the Caney Circle, as outlined in this Constitution
 - v. Is entitled to one (1) vote regarding each Caney Circle Matter
 - vi. Shall be referred to as an “Caney”
 - vii. Shall serve as the official representative of their Weechinnineummoncheg for all Caney Circle matters
 - 1. If unable to perform duties, the Ókasohneummoncheg may appoint a representative to serve in their stead
 - a. Must be a companion of the Clan
 - viii. Shall not be required to Hear all Matters that are brought to their attention
- c. The Caney Circle shall meet at least one (1) time per calendar month on a day and time to be determined by the Caney Circle

- i. Meeting must occur a minimum of four (4) days before the next scheduled Monthly Tribal Body Meeting
- ii. Notice must be given to all Tribal Body Members at least seven (7) days prior to the meeting
- d. Responsibilities & Duties:

Any Matter that is brought to the attention of the Caney Circle that is not specifically listed below shall require a greater than fifty (50) percent vote of approval to be enacted

- i. Approval and Removal of Caciques
 - 1. Ceremonial approval of the Cacique
 - 2. Requires eighty-five (85) percent vote of approval by Caney Circle to remove a Cacique
- ii. Approval and Removal of Caney
 - 1. Ceremonial approval
 - 2. Requires eighty-five (85) percent vote of approval by Caney Circle to remove an Cacique
- iii. Approval of recommendations for the safety and protection of the TTN
 - 1. Requires eighty-five (85) percent vote of approval by Caney Circle
- iv. Approval and Removal of Tribal Officers
 - 1. Requires two-thirds (2/3) vote of approval by Caney Circle
- v. Approval of Annual Budget
 - 1. Requires two-thirds (2/3) vote of approval by Caney Circle
- vi. Suspension of Tribal Body Membership privileges
 - 1. Require two-thirds (2/3) vote of approval by Caney Circle
- vii. Recommendation and approval of salaries and benefits for TTN associated positions and titles
 - 1. Requires two-thirds (2/3) vote of approval
- viii. Recommendation of additions and/or amendments to the TTN Constitution
 - 1. Requires greater than fifty(50) percent vote of approval
- ix. Authorization of financial exchanges equal to or in excess of one hundred (100) dollars
 - 1. Approval of Treasurer required
- x. Presiding over Monthly Tribal Body Meetings and Annual Meeting
- xi. Development and implementation of at least one (1) annual fundraiser to support the TTN
- e. Rights/Privileges:
 - i. Dancing second (2nd) in all TTN Powwows
 - 1. Wiseman shall have the honor of carrying the “Turtle Staff”
 - ii. May sit in the Honor Circle at all TTN activities and functions
- f. Positions and Associated Duties/Responsibilities

Officers of the Caney Circle shall comprise the Executive Committee of the Caney Circle. Executive Committee Members shall be elected for the Caney Circle by obtaining a greater than fifty (50) percent vote of approval from the Caney Circle. Officers of the Caney Circle shall consist of:

- i. 1st Cacique (Chair)
 - 1. Oversee Monthly Tribal Body Meetings, Caney Circle Meetings and Annual Meeting
 - 2. Approve Tribal Body Membership applications
 - 3. Is elected to post by majority vote of the Caney Circle

4. Shall serve in the capacity of Wiseman of the GCN
- ii. 2nd Cacique (Vice Chair)
 1. Appointed to position by 1st Cacique
- iii. Treasurer
 1. Appointed to position by 1st Cacique
 2. Approve Financial Exchanges equal to or in excess of one hundred (100) dollars
- iv. Secretary
 1. Store and maintain all pertinent TTN documentation
 2. Record, prepare and distribute minutes for Ahutskowag Circle Meetings, Monthly Tribal Body Meetings and the Annual Meeting
 3. Approve Tribal Body Membership applications
 4. Issue GC to Tribal Body Members
 5. Appointed to position by 1st Cacique
- v. Parliamentarian
 1. Shall be male to compliment the Clan Mother position
 2. Serves as the Spiritual, Moral and Ethical advisor of TTN
 3. Open/Close all TTN functions/ceremonies with a prayer
 4. Does not exercise voting privileges
 5. Responsible for overseeing collection and tallying of all votes regarding:
 - a. Matters addressed by the Caney Circle
 - b. Cacique elections
 - c. Additions and/or amendments to this Constitution
 - i. Unless there is a deadlock amongst Caney Circle
 - ii. Unless there has twice been deadlock by Tribal Body Membership in voting for the position of Cacique
 6. Acts as intermediary between Caney Circle, Cacique Circle and Guazabara Circle
 7. Is the only member of the Cacique Circle that can officially communicate with Caney Circle regarding TTN matters
 8. Carries the “Turtle Staff” at all TTN Powwows
 9. If a vacancy occurs this position is to be appointed by the current Caney
 10. Position is considered a lifelong appointment
- vi. Medicine Man/Medicine Woman
 1. Cultural/traditional guide of TTN
 2. Ensure that TTN functions/ceremonies are in accordance with traditional Native American cultural beliefs/traditions
 3. Responsible for “Smudging” at all appropriate TTN activities and functions
 4. Presents the pipe at all appropriate ceremonies
 5. If a vacancy occurs this position is to be appointed by the current Caney
 6. Position is considered a lifelong appointment
- vii. Select Caney:
 1. Appointed by and serve at the discretion of the Cacique
 2. Serve for the tenure of the Cacique

- a. Newly elected Cacique have the option of appointing their own Select Caney
3. There shall be a maximum of three (3) “Select Caney” sitting in the Caney Circle at any time
 - a. Minimum of four (4) Sitting Caney must already be in the Caney Circle for a Select Caney to be appointed
 - b. Appointed at a rate of one (1) Select Council Member for every four (4) Standing Caney
 - c. Requires a minimum fifty (50) percent vote of approval by the Caney Circle
4. Must meet all Cacique eligibility requirements, as outlined in this Constitution
5. Must abide by all governing rules of the Caney Circle, as outlined in this Constitution
6. Must be of Native American decent

2. Cacique Circle –

The distinction and privilege of being a Cacique of the TTN is considered a lifelong honor. Unless stripped of their title by the Caney Circle for Misconduct, Cacique of the TTN shall retain this distinction until they become a deceased Cacique.

TTN Cacique are viewed as the moral, ethical and righteous leaders of the TTN. As such they are entitled to all responsibilities, rights and privileges associated with such a distinction and honor which include but are not limited to exacting judgments for Misconduct and bestowing Honor Feathers upon individuals deemed worthy of such an honor.

TTN Sachimaog shall be classified as one (1) of two (2) types: “Active Caciques” and “Agueybano¹² Cacique” or “Honor Chiefs”. AS oversee the daily functions of the TTN. NS provide guidance and wisdom to the AS

- a. Purpose:
 - i. To develop, implement and manage the daily activities and operations associated with the positive and sustained development of the TTN
- b. Requirements
 - i. Must be a MGS
 - ii. Must be twenty-one (21) years of age or older
 - iii. Must be a Birthright Tribal Member, unless otherwise stated in this Constitution
- c. Rights/Privileges:
 - i. Dance first in TTN Powwows
 1. Cacique dances directly behind Taupaw/Taupausq
 - ii. May sit in the Honor Circle at all TTN activities and functions*
 1. Cacique given High Honor Seat
 - iii. May invite others to sit in the Honor Circle at all TTN activities and functions
 - iv. May appoint “Select Caney” to sit in the Caney Circle
 - v. May exact judgments upon Tribal Body Members for Misconduct
 1. Any and all judgments shall be eligible for appeal to the Caney Circle for further review

¹² translation: Chief of Chiefs

- vi. May bestow “Honor Feathers” upon an individual for outstanding service and/or dedication to the TTN or the community at large
 - vii. Presides over all Powwows, Naming Ceremonies, Tribal Body Meetings, Membership Induction Ceremonies and Caney Ceremonies
 - viii. May wear a Headdress to signify their Cacique status
 - ix. Shall appoint individuals to the Wiseman and Medicine Man/Woman positions in the event that the positions become vacant during their tenure in office
- d. Positions and Associated Duties/Responsibilities:
- i. **CEO Cacique** (Chief Executive Officer)
 - 1. Must be twenty-five (25) years of age or older
 - 2. Wear two (2) white and one (1) red side feathers
 - 3. Shall be elected by a popular vote of the Tribal Body Membership
 - a. Is elected once every four (4) years at the Annual Meeting
 - b. Requires greater than fifty (50) percent vote of approval by the Tribal Body Membership
 - i. if no candidate receives greater than fifty (50) percent vote of approval, there will be a run off of the two (2) leading candidates
 - c. Tenure of office begins on January 15th of the year following their election
 - 4. Upon election to office, shall appoint individuals to serve in the capacity of Agueybano Cacique and Warrior Cacique and if vacant, the Wiseman or Medicine Man/Woman positions of the TTN, as outlined in this Constitution
 - 5. Primarily responsible to carry out the strategic plans and policies of the TTN as established by the Caney Circle. Duties/Responsibilities shall consist of:
 - a. Supporting the operations and administration of the Caney Circle by advising and informing Caney, interfacing between the Caney Circle and Tribal Staff, and supporting Caney Circle evaluations and recommendations
 - b. Overseeing design, marketing, promotion, delivery and quality of TTN programs, products and services
 - c. Recommending Annual Budget for Caney Circle approval and prudently managing organization's resources within those budget guidelines according to current laws and regulations
 - d. Effectively managing the human resources of the organization according to authorized personnel policies and procedures that fully conform to current laws and regulations
 - e. Assuring the organization and its mission, programs, products and services are consistently presented in strong, positive image to relevant stakeholders
 - f. Overseeing fundraising planning and implementation including; identifying resource requirements, researching funding sources, establishing strategies to approach funders, submitting proposals and administrating fundraising records and documentation

- g. Overseeing all Committee Head positions
 - i. There shall be a minimum of three (3) standing committees for the TTN that shall consist of:
 - 1. Internal Affairs
 - 2. External Affairs
 - 3. Ad Hoc
 - ii. Committee Heads shall be considered Staff
- h. Hiring and Termination of all Staff
- i. Recommendation of action pertaining to the safety and protection of the TTN
- ii. **Development Cacique** (Chief Development Officer)
 - 1. 1st Cacique shall serve in this capacity
 - a. Requires minimum fifty (50) percent vote of approval by the Caney Circle
 - 2. Serves under the general direction of the Cacique
 - 3. Associated Duties/Responsibilities shall consist of:
 - a. Assisting in the coordination and management of daily activities and operations of the TTN
 - b. Planning, coordinating and assuring implementation of strategies to market and lead the growth of the TTN
 - c. Identifying and managing the continued development of diverse growth options that will lead to the overall stability and success of the TTN
 - d. Overseeing Staff Positions:
 - i. Geneologist
 - ii. Historian
 - iii. Office Manager
 - e. Presents the Tribal Talking Stick at all appropriate ceremonies and functions
- iii. **Warrior Cacique** (Chief Operations Officer)
 - 1. Appointed by CEO Cacique, with approval from the Caney Circle
 - a. Requires minimum fifty (50) percent vote of approval by the Caney Circle
 - 2. Serves under the general direction of the CEO Cacique
 - 3. Associated Duties/Responsibilities shall consist of:
 - a. Assisting in the coordination and management of daily activities and operations of TTN
 - b. Reviewing daily activities and operations to ensure efficiency, effectiveness and overall success of TTN
 - c. Informing Cacique of all issues and/or accomplishments of daily activities and operations of TTN
 - d. Overseeing daily activities and operations of Cacique Circle
 - e. Is the protector/keeper of the Tribal Pipe and presents it to the Medicine Man/Woman at all appropriate functions/ceremonies
- iv. **Honor Cacique** (Honor Chief)
 - 1. Purpose:
 - a. To provide guidance and wisdom to Active Caciques
 - 2. Requirements:

- a. Must be former TTN Cacique who is not currently an Active Cacique **OR**
 - b. Must be a current or former Cacique of another Tribal Nation who has become an Adopted Member of the TTN
 - i. If former Active Caciques, wear one (1) white feather, one (1) yellow feather and one (1) feather with the color that corresponds with Active Caciques position held
- 3. Associated Duties/Responsibilities:
 - a. May call a meeting with the Active Caciques:
 - i. By obtaining a two-thirds (2/3) vote of approval by all NS
 - ii. To address issues of misconduct and/or lack of leadership on the part of Active Caciques
 - iii. To be updated on the current state of affairs of the TTN
 - iv. To make suggestions for the continued positive progress and development of the TTN
 - v. All Active Caciques shall be mandated to attend
 - vi. NS may not call a meeting more than once per calendar month
 - b. May make recommendations to Caney Circle for stripping of a Cacique's title for Misconduct
 - i. Requires eighty-five (85) percent vote of approval by all Active Caciques
- 3. **Taino Tribal Nation Guazabara Circle –**
 - a. Purpose:
 - i. To ensure the safety, order, protection and peaceful existence of the TTN
 - b. Requirements:
 - i. Must be a MGS
 - ii. Are selected for initiation by and serve at the discretion of the Aguontis Cacique with approval from the Cacique and Caney Circle
 - iii. Must undergo the Ayeuteanūog initiation process
 - 1. To be determined by the CEO Cacique, with approval from the Active Caciques and Caney Circle
 - 2. Individuals may be initiates as a Guazabara at the age of 16, but will not be eligible for Circle status until their 21st birthday
 - c. Associated Duties/Responsibilities:
 - i. Serve primarily under the direct guidance and supervision of the CEO Cacique but are also subject to all Sachimaog and Caney
 - ii. Ensure the protection of all Caney, Caciques and Guazabaras
 - iii. Serve as security at all TTN activities and functions
 - iv. Provide assistance to any and all Tribal activities and operations as deemed appropriate by the Aguontis Cacique
 - d. Rights/Privileges:
 - i. Dance fourth (4th) in all TTN Powwows
 - ii. May wear three (3) feathers on right side to show association with Cacique Circle
 - 1. The Hawk Feather shall be designated as the Official Feather of the Guazabara Circle

- e. *Command Structure: All Cacique Circle designations shall be determined by and at the discretion of the CEO Cacique*

4. **Caney Circle –**

a. Purpose:

- i. To serve as a Conflict Resolution and Appeals Board for TTN Matters that cannot be resolved through the policies and procedures outlined in this Constitution

b. Requirements:

- i. Must be a current MGS
- ii. Must have been a MGS for two (2) consecutive calendar years prior to date of application
- iii. Must be at least fifty-five (55) years of age
 - 1. Caney who is at least fifty-five (55) years of age shall be considered a default member of the Kehchisog Circle
- iv. Must be approved by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the current Cacique Circle
- v. May only provide a Hearing to Matters that have been previously addressed by the Caney Circle
- vi. May only provide a Hearing to Matters that are officially brought to their attention by Cacique, Medicine Woman/Man or Wiseman
 - 1. Hearing requires a two-thirds (2/3) vote of approval by all members of the Caney Circle
- vii. Are not required to provide a Hearing to all Matters that are brought to their attention
 - 1. If a Matter is denied a Hearing, the complainants shall be required to wait a minimum of six (6) calendar months from the date of denial before attempting to bring the Matter before the Caney Circle again
 - 2. If a Matter is denied a Hearing three (3) times it is considered “Not Valid to the Tribe”. Once a Matter is considered “Not Valid to the Tribe” it:
 - a. May not be brought up for consideration by a non-Caney for a period of no less than three (3) years

c. Associated Duties/Responsibilities:

- i. Resolving grievances/conflicts between Caciques, Caney and Guazabaras
- ii. Stripping Titles of Caciques for Misconduct
- iii. Hearing appeals of decisions instituted by the Caney Circle or a Cacique
 - 1. May only be brought up for consideration by a Caney with a three-fourths (3/4) vote of approval by the entire Caney Circle
- iv. Decisions of the Caney Circle are considered final and binding to the TTN, as outlined in this Constitution

d. Rights/Privileges:

- i. Dance third (3rd) at TTN Powwows
- ii. May sit in the Honor Circle at all TTN activities and functions
- iii. A Kehchisog Ceremony shall be held once annually
 - 1. To honor current Caney
 - 2. To induct new Caney

5. **Clans**

a. Purpose:

- i. To determine Proof of Lineage to the TTN for individuals who may become newly accepted and approved Tribal Body Members
 - ii. To determine Proof of Lineage to the TTN for Tribal Body Members born with surnames different than that of their particular Clan
 - b. Requirements:
 - i. Minimum of four (4) applying Family members who have been MGS for at least one (1) calendar year prior to date of application
 - ii. Must have identified a Taino Tribal Nation Clan
 - 1. Must be a MGS
 - iii. Must inform both the Cacique and 1st Cacique of their plan to apply for Clan status
 - 1. The Clan should set individual meetings with both positions
 - iv. Must put their application for Clan Member status in writing and submit it to the Wiseman
 - 1. The Clan should set meeting with Wiseman to submit application
 - v. Must be approved by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Caney Circle
 - 1. If denied, Clan may appeal the decision to the Caney Circle for further review
 - c. Associated Duties/Responsibilities:
 - i. Identifying a Clan Member to serve as liason for the Clan regarding Tribal Matters
 - ii. Designating a surname for the Clan to be identified by Wiseman
 - iii. Choosing a symbol to represent the Clan
 - iv. Selecting a representative to serve as Cacique for the Clan
 - 1. Cacique must be nominated by the Clan Members
 - v. Ensuring participation in and support of TTN activities and functions by Clan members
 - d. Rights/Privileges:
 - i. Clan members may sit in the Honor Circle at all TTN activities and functions
 - ii. Clan members may dance third (3rd) with the Caney at TTN Powwows
 - iii. Clan members may communicate directly with the Caney Circle
 - iv. Any Clan that has a Clan Member serving in an AS position shall not appoint a Cacique to serve on the Caney Circle

Section II: Staff

Staff shall be defined as any position or title that is tasked with implementing and managing the daily activities and operations of the TTN.

- 1. Staff shall be subordinate to all Active Caciques and Caney
- 2. Staff shall at minimum consist of the following positions:
 - a. **CEO Cacique** (Chief Executive Officer)
 - i. Associated duties and responsibilities outlined in ARTICLE IV, Section I, Part 2-d-i of this Constitution
 - b. **Development Cacique** (Chief Development Officer)
 - i. Associated duties and responsibilities outlined in ARTICLE IV, Section I, Part 2-d-ii of this Constitution
 - c. **Guazabara Cacique** (Chief Operations Officer)
 - i. Associated duties and responsibilities outlined in ARTICLE IV, Section I, Part 2-d-iii of this Constitution
 - d. **Tribal Genealogist**

- i. Appointed by Guazabara Cacique with approval from CEO Cacique, as outlined in this Constitution
 - ii. Under the direct Supervision of the Guazabara Cacique
 - iii. Approve Proof of Lineage documentation
 - iv. Issue TTN RN
- e. **Tribal Body Historian**
 - i. Appointed by Gauzabara Cacique with approval from CEO Cacique, as outlined in this Constitution
 - ii. Under the direct Supervision of the Guazabara Cacique
 - iii. Document, maintain and narrate history, lineage and traditions of TTN
- f. **Office Manager**
 - i. Appointed by Guazabara Cacique with approval from CEO Cacique, as outlined in this Constitution
 - ii. Under the direct Supervision of the Guazabara Cacique
 - iii. Oversee daily functions and Staff of the Tribal Body Office

Section III: Chain of Command -

The Chain of Command for the TTN shall be as follows:

1. Tribal Body Members shall be subordinate to the Cacique, Caney, and Guazabara, as outlined in this Constitution
2. Guazabara shall be subordinate to all Cacique and Caney, as outlined in this Constitution
3. Staff shall be subordinate to all Cacique and Caney, as outlined in this Constitution
4. The Guazabara Cacique and Development Cacique shall be subordinate to the CEO Cacique, as outlined in this Constitution
5. The Cacique shall seek the approval of the Caney Circle for the following matters:
 - a. Purchases equal to or in excess of one hundred (100) dollars
 - i. Requires approval of Treasurer
 - b. Matters pertaining to the protection of the TTN
 - c. Approval and Removal of subordinate Cacique
 - d. Approval and Removal of Select Caney
 - e. Approval and Removal of Honorary Tribal Member
 - f. Approval and Removal of Adopted Tribal Members
 - g. Removal of Membership Privileges
 - h. Recommendations for additions and/or amendments to this Constitution
 - i. Implementation of the Annual Budget
6. Active Caciques shall be subordinate to CEO Cacique, as outlined in this Constitution
7. Cacique, Caney, Guazabara and Clan Mothers shall be subordinate to the Caney Circle, as outlined in this Constitution

Section IV: Voting -

1. All MGS shall be eligible to vote on all relevant TTN matters, as outlined in this Constitution
2. The Wisemen shall oversee all voting procedures of the Tribal Body Membership, as outlined in this Constitution
3. The following Matters shall require a vote of approval from the Tribal Body Membership, as outlined in this Constitution
 - a. The position of CEO Cacique
 - i. Elections shall be held once every two (2) years at the Annual Meeting
 - b. Additions and/or amendments to this Constitution

- i. Must be presented to the Tribal Body Membership at the November Monthly Tribal Body Meeting¹³
4. All Tribal Body Membership voting Matters shall require a greater than fifty (50) percent vote of approval to be considered approved and accepted, as outlined in this Constitution
5. Voting Privileges may suspended for any Tribal Body Member, as outlined in this Constitution:
 - a. Who is not a MGS
 - b. Judged guilty of Misconduct
6. Voting for Caney Circle postions shall take place at the Council Meeting immediately preceding the Annual Meeting

Section V: Additions & Amendments to the Constitution -

Additions and/or amendments to this Constitution:

1. Shall be presented to the Tribal Body Membership for review and approval at the Annual Meeting
2. May be made in whole or in part by a vote of approval by all MGS who are present at the time of voting
3. Must be submitted in writing to the Internal Affairs Committee of the TTN to be considered valid for review and approval by the Tribal Body Membership
4. May not be presented to the Tribal Body without prior review and approval of the Internal Affairs Committee, as outlined in this Constitution

Section VI: Meetings -

1. Tribal Body Members are to be notified of any and all meetings a minimum of seven (7) days in advance of the meeting.
2. Proper means of communication may include but are not limited to phone calls, Emails and mailings
 - a. The most expedient and reliable means of communication should be utilized to ensure proper notification
3. Unless otherwise instructed by the Cacique or otherwise noted in this Constitution, all TTN meetings and functions are to be opened and closed with a prayer by the Taupaw/Taupausq
4. Minutes from all official TTN meetings shall be recorded and must be available for review by the Tribal Body Membership no later than one (1) calendar month from the date of the original meeting
5. There shall be one (1) **Monthly Tribal Body Meeting** held per calendar month¹⁴:
 - a. Held on the third (3rd) Saturday of every calendar month
 - b. Location and time to be determined by the Caney Circle
 - c. Unless instructed otherwise by the Guazabara Cacique, the order of business for all Monthly Tribal Body Meetings shall be as follows:
 - i. Opening Prayer
 - ii. Presentations
 1. Maximum of ten (10) minutes per presentation
 - iii. Previous Minutes
 - iv. Old Business
 - v. Staff Reports

¹³ To ensure ample time for review and evaluation by the Tribal Body Membership before the Annual Meeting

¹⁴ The Annual Meeting shall serve as the Monthly Tribal Body Meeting for the month of December

- vi. New Business
 - vii. Announcements
 - viii. Words from the Cacique
 - ix. Closing Prayer
 - x. Adjournment
 - xi. Tribal Body Membership Matters
 - 1. Collection of Monthly Dues
 - 2. Processing of forms & documentation
 - 3. Processing of GC
 - 4. Induction Ceremonies
6. There shall be one (1) **Caney Circle Meeting** held per calendar month
 - a. Location, date and time to be determined by the Caney Circle
 - b. Must be held at least four (4) days prior to the next Monthly Tribal Body meeting
 7. There shall be one (1) **Annual Meeting** held per calendar year
 - a. Date, location and time to be determined by the Caney Circle
 - i. Must take place during the Month of November, no later than the 3rd Saturday of December
 - ii. Will be the venue for election of the Cacique, as outlined in this Constitution
 - iii. Will be the venue for appointment of Caney, as outlined in this Constitution
 - iv. Will be the venue for induction of new Wutohtimion Weechinnineummonchegunk, as outlined in this Constitution
 - v. Shall serve as the November Monthly Tribal Body Meeting
 - b. There shall be one (1) **Powwow** held per calendar year
 - i. Held on a date and at a location to be determined by the Cacique
 8. There shall be two (2) **Tribal Gatherings** held per calendar year
 - a. **Harvest Gathering**
 - i. Fall
 - ii. Date, time and location to be determined by the Ad Hoc Committee with approval from the Cacique
 - b. **Planting Gathering**
 - i. Spring
 - ii. Date, time and location to be determined by the Ad Hoc Committee with approval from the Cacique
 9. There shall be one (1) **Naming Ceremony** held per calendar year
 - a. Date, location and time to be determined by the Ad Hoc Committee, with approval from the Cacique
 10. There shall be one (1) **Caney Ceremony** held per calendar year
 - a. Date, location and time to be determined by the Ad hoc Committee, with approval from the Cacique and with input from the Kehchisog Circle
 - b. Will be venue for honoring of current Caney Circle members and induction of new Caney Circle members
 11. **Special Meetings**
 - a. Defined as any meeting not previously listed under ARTICLE IV, Section VI of this Constitution.
 - b. May only address issues that are lawful and proper for the Tribal Body Membership to consider
 - c. May be called to address issues of importance, benefit or detriment to the general well-being of the TTN

- d. May be called by AS, the Caney Circle or the Clan Mother, as outlined in this Constitution
- e. Requirements:
 - i. A two-thirds (2/3) vote of approval
 - ii. Notification in writing must be presented to the Wiseman
 - iii. Notification must be presented to the Tribal Body Membership
 - iv. Notification must follow all rules and regulations as stipulated in this Constitution and must include:
 - 1. The purpose of the meeting
 - 2. The business to be transacted
 - 3. Whom the meeting was called by

Section VII: Procedures –

Official procedures of the TTN are as follows:

1. Membership Application Procedure

- a. Applications for Tribal Body Membership shall be submitted to the Tribal Genealogist
 - i. Must include Proof of Lineage to the ***Taino Tribal Nation*** by ***demonstrating a bloodline connection to a) the Taino Indian Territories of Boriken (Puerto Rico) prior to Spanish occupation from 1500 to 1890 via historical birth or marriage documentation or b) United States Government Census Reports of bloodline lineage prior to 1925 or c) historical documents identifying a direct ancestor as a Member of the Taino Tribal Nation.*** Must include valid forms of identification
 - 1. To be determined by the Tribal Genealogist, with approval from the Caney Circle
- b. Tribal Genealogist approves application/documentation and submits to Caney Circle for approval by 1st Cacique
- c. 1st Cacique approves application and submits to Cacique
- d. Cacique schedules Membership Induction Ceremony
 - i. Applicant takes the TTN “Oath of Revocation”
 - ii. Applicant takes the TTN “Oath of Allegiance”
 - iii. Application is notarized by Notary Public
 - 1. Service provided by TTN
- e. Applicant takes steps to secure GC
- f. Cacique approves application and submits to Tribal Genealogist
- g. Tribal Genealogist issues Applicant a TTN RN and submits application to Tribal Secretary for storage
- h. Tribal Secretary notifies applicant that they have been accepted and approved for Tribal Body Membership
 - i. Notified in writing
 - ii. Receive TTN RN
 - iii. Receive copy of approved application
- i. Tribal Secretary issues Tribal Body Member a GC

2. Member Clan Status Application Procedure

- a. Family member identifies a minimum of four (4) members who have been MGS for a minimum of one (1) calendar year prior to date of application
- b. Family member identifies a Clan
 - i. Must be MGS

- ii. Clan informs both the Cacique and 1st Cacique of their plan to apply for Clan Membership status
 - iii. Sets individual meetings with both positions
 - c. Clan member submits application for Clan Membership status to the Wiseman
 - i. Sets meeting with Wiseman to submit application
 - d. Wiseman submits application to Caney Circle for vote of approval
 - e. Application is approved
 - i. Requires a two-thirds (2/3) vote of approval by the Caney Circle
 - ii. If denied, Clans may appeal the decision to the Caney Circle for further review
 - f. Cacique informs Clan of approval
 - i. Must be notified in writing
 - g. Clan selects surname and symbol
 - h. Clan appoints Cacique
 - i. As outlined in ARTICLE IV, Section VII, Part 5 of this Constitution
 - i. Clan Mother and Cacique invited to next Caney Circle Meeting to undergo Hand Placing Ceremony
 - i. Signifies acceptance and approval of Caney Circle
 - j. Clan membership begins service to the TTN
- 3. **Cacique Appointment Procedure**
 - a. Cacique identifies Candidate to fill vacant position
 - i. Application
 - ii. Resume
 - iii. Letter of Interest
 - b. Cacique notifies Wiseman of intent to fill vacant position, and submit Candidate's information to Tribal Secretary
 - c. Tribal Secretary documents Candidate's application materials and submits copies to Caney Circle for review
 - d. Caney Circle sets time to interview Candidate
 - i. No later than the second (2nd) scheduled Caney Circle meeting following notification
 - e. Caney Circle votes on appointment, as outlined in this Constitution
 - i. If denied, Cacique may appeal decision to Caney Circle for further review
 - f. Candidate notified in writing of acceptance
 - g. Candidate invited to next Caney Circle Meeting to undergo a Hand Placing Ceremony
 - i. Signifies acceptance and approval of Caney Circle
 - h. Appointee begins service to the TTN
- 4. **Cacique Election Procedure¹⁵**
 - a. Interested Candidates shall notify the Wiseman of their intent to campaign for the Cacique position
 - i. Any Cacique running for the Cacique position shall be required to relinquish their seat in the Caney Circle for the duration of their campaign
 - 1. Clan Mother shall appoint replacement
 - ii. Must be eligible to campaign as it pertains to the requirements outlined in this Constitution
 - iii. Intent to campaign must be submitted in writing
 - b. Wiseman submits information to Caney Circle

¹⁵ a to c not required for current CEO Cacique

- c. Caney Circle schedules interview with Candidate
 - i. No later than the second (2nd) scheduled Caney Circle meeting following notification
 - d. Candidate begins to campaign
 - i. Candidate may not begin to campaign until interviewed by Caney Circle
 - e. Candidate gives election speech at Annual Meeting
 - f. Tribal Body Membership votes
 - i. Adhere to guidelines stipulated in ARTICLE IV, Section 4 of this Constitution
 - g. Wiseman collects and tallies Tribal Body Membership votes
 - h. Election Winner announced by Wiseman
 - i. Caney Circle gives ceremonial Vote of Approval
 - j. Hand Placing Ceremony held for newly elected Cacique
 - i. Open to all Tribal Body Members
 - k. Cacique sets meeting with Caney Circle to discuss goals/plans for term of service
 - i. Must occur before January 8th of the year following their election to office
 - l. Cacique begins service to the TTN on January 15th of the year following their election to office
5. **Caney Circle Appointment Procedure**
- a. Clan Mother identifies Candidate to fill vacant position
 - i. Application
 - ii. Resume
 - iii. Letter of Interest
 - b. Clan Mother notifies Wiseman of intent to fill vacant position, and submit individual's information to Tribal Secretary
 - c. Tribal Secretary documents Candidate's application materials and submits copies to Caney Circle for review
 - d. Caney Circle sets time to interview Candidate
 - i. No later than the second (2nd) scheduled Caney Circle meeting following notification
 - e. Caney Circle votes on appointment, as outlined in this Constitution
 - i. If denied, Clan Mother may appeal decision to Caney Circle for further review
 - f. Candidate notified in writing of acceptance
 - g. Candidate and Clan Mother invited to next Caney Circle Meeting to undergo a Hand Placing Ceremony
 - i. Signifies acceptance and approval of Caney Circle
 - h. Ahutskou begins service to the TTN
6. **Constitution Additions and Amendments Procedure**
- a. All proposed additions and/or amendments to this Constitution are to be submitted in writing to the Policy & Procedure Committee of the Caney Circle **NO LATER THAN the October Monthly Tribal Body Meeting**
 - b. Proposed additions and/or amendments will be reviewed by the Policy and Procedure Committee
 - i. To address any issues of language discrepancy
 - ii. To incorporate all proposed additions and/or amendments into one document for Tribal Body Membership review
 - iii. To ensure the proper distribution of this document to the Tribal Body Membership at the **November Tribal Body Meeting**

- c. Tribal Body Members shall vote on the proposed additions and/or amendments at the Annual Meeting, as outlined in this Constitution
- d. Accepted and approved additions and/or amendments to this Constitution shall go into effect on January 15th of the year following their approval

7. **Caney Circle Judgment Procedure**

Caney Circle Judgment Hearings are considered “General Tribal Body Membership Information” and are open to attendance by any MGS. All Defendants shall be considered Innocent until Judged Guilty by the Caney Circle

- a. “Matter of Complaint” shall be brought to the attention of the Defendant by a Tribal Body Member
 - i. If Misconduct stops, Matter is laid to rest
 - ii. If Misconduct continues, move to next step
- b. Tribal Body Member shall present Matter to Taupaw/Taupausq
- c. Wiseman decides if Matter is worth pursuing
 - i. If not worth pursuing, Matter is laid to rest
 - ii. If worth pursuing, move to next step
- d. Wiseman shall bring Matter to the attention of the Defendant
 - i. If Misconduct stops, Matter is laid to rest
 - ii. If Misconduct continues, move to next step
 - 1. **If Defendant is an Cacique, Matter shall be brought to the attention of the Clan Mother before moving to next step**
 - a. If Misconduct stops, Matter is laid to rest
 - b. If Misconduct continues, move to next step
- e. Wiseman shall present Matter in writing to the Caney Circle
- f. Caney Circle shall consider Matter and then vote to hold Hearing on matter
 - i. Set date/time/location for proceedings
 - ii. Must adhere to rules and regulations as set forth in ARTCILE IV, Section I, Part 1-d of this Constitution
 - iii. If denied, Matter is laid to rest
 - iv. If approved, move to next step
- g. Written notification of Hearing is presented to the Defendant and Complainant and made available to the Tribal Body Membership
 - i. Requires minimum of two (2) weeks advanced notice
 - ii. Notification shall include the following information
 - 1. Name of Defendant
 - 2. Name of Complainant
 - 3. Matter being heard
 - 4. Date, time, location of Hearing
 - 5. Names of Caney who will be Hearing the Matter
- h. Defendant and Complainant appear before Caney Circle
 - i. **If Defendant or Complainant refuse to or do not show for Hearing, by default they agree to abide by the judgment of the Caney Circle and wave their right to appeal to the Cacique Circle**
 - ii. Procedure
 - 1. Complainant presents argument to Caney Circle
 - a. Presents facts regarding complaint
 - i. May call witnesses to stand
 - 2. Defendant presents defense to Caney
 - a. Presents facts regarding defense
 - i. May call witnesses to stand

3. Defendant and Complainant dismissed from Caney Circle
4. Caney Circle judges Matter
 - a. Must pass Judgment no later than two (2) scheduled Caney Circle Meetings from date of original Hearing
 - i. Requires greater than fifty (50) percent vote of approval by Caney Circle
- i. Judgments:
 - i. Original Judgment Stands
 1. Original Judgment deemed “excessive” and/or “inappropriate” and/or “unlawful”; new Judgment exacted
 - a. **Warning or Revocation of Warning against Misconduct** and/or
 - b. **Fine or Reimbursement of Fine for damages rendered** and/or
 - i. In the case of property or physical damage
 - c. **Suspension or Reinstatement of Membership Privileges** and/or
 - i. Specific privileges determined by Caney Circle
 - d. **Removal or Reinstatement of Position**
 - i. Requires two-third (2/3) vote of approval by Caney Circle
 - e. Written notification of judgment is presented to the Complainant, Defendant and made available to the Tribal Body Membership
 - j. Judgment goes into effect immediately
8. **Stripping of Cacique Title Procedure**
 - a. Accusation of Misconduct shall be brought to the attention of a Clan Cacique,
 - b. Clan Cacique shall bring Matter to the attention of Defendant Cacique
 - i. Clan Cacique makes Defendant Cacique aware of allegation
 1. Gathers details about situation from Defendant Cacique
 - ii. Cacique chooses to not recommend Hearing, Matter is laid to rest
 - iii. Clan Cacique chooses to recommend Hearing, move to next step
 - c. Clan Cacique shall present Matter in writing to all NS
 - d. Clan Cacique shall consider Matter and then vote to hold Hearing on Matter
 - i. Requires two-thirds (2/3) vote of approval by all Clan Caciques
 - ii. Set date/time/location for proceedings
 - iii. If denied, Matter is laid to rest
 - iv. If approved, move to next step
 - e. Written notification of Hearing is presented to the Defendant Cacique and Complainant
 - i. Requires minimum of two (2) weeks advanced notice
 - ii. Notification shall include the following information
 1. Name of Defendant Cacique
 2. Name of Complainant
 3. Matter being heard
 4. Date, time, location of Hearing
 5. Names of Clan Caciques who will be hearing the Matter
 - f. Defendant Cacique and Complainant appear before Clan Caciques

- i. **If Defendant Cacique and/or Complainant refuse to or do not show for Hearing, by default they agree to abide by the judgment of the Clan Caciques**
 - ii. All Active Caciques shall be mandated to attend
 - iii. Procedure
 - 1. Complainant presents argument to Clan Caciques
 - a. May present facts and call witnesses to stand
 - 2. Defendant Cacique presents defense to Clan Caciques
 - a. present facts and call witnesses to stand
 - 3. Defendant Cacique and Complainant dismissed from Clan Caciques
 - 4. Clan Caciques discusses Matter
 - g. Clan Caciques judge Matter
 - i. Must pass Judgment no later than one (1) calendar month from date of original Hearing
 - ii. Must adhere to rules and regulations as set forth in ARTICLE IV, Section I, Part 2-d-iv of this Constitution
 - iii. Judgments:
 - 1. **Recommendation to drop the Matter**
 - 2. **Recommendation to refer Matter to Caney Circle**
 - a. Follow procedures as outlined in this Constitution
 - 3. **Recommendation for Stripping of Title**
 - a. Matter referred to Cacique Circle
 - h. Written notification of Judgment is presented to the Complainant, Defendant Cacique and made available to the Tribal Body Membership
 - i. Judgment goes into effect immediately
- 9. Cacique Circle Appeals Procedure**
- Cacique Circle Appeals Hearings are considered “General Tribal Body Membership Information” and are open to attendance by any MGS. All Defendants shall be considered Innocent until Judged Guilty by the Cacique Circle*
- Complainants may seek an appeal to the Cacique Circle only after having the matter addressed by the Caney Circle.*
- a. The Cacique Circle shall hear Appeals regarding the following Matters of Complaint:
 - i. **Decisions to suspend Tribal Body Membership privileges**
 - ii. **Denial of Clan Membership status**
 - iii. **Conflicts/grievances between Cacique, Caney, and Clan Mother**
 - iv. **Denial of Cacique appointments**
 - v. **Decisions to remove individuals from their position**
 - 1. Active Caciques
 - 2. Cacique
 - 3. Officer
 - vi. **Decisions to strip Cacique of their Titles**
 - b. Procedure:
 - i. Appeals application form is completed by and/or submitted to the Wiseman, a Cacique or a Clan Mother
 - ii. Form is submitted to the Cacique Circle for review
 - iii. Cacique Circle shall consider the Matter and then vote to hold Hearing

1. Must adhere to the rules and regulations as set forth in ARTCILE IV, Section I, Part 4-c- iv, v of this Constitution¹⁶
2. Set date/time/location for proceedings
3. If denied, Matter is laid to rest
4. If approved, move to next step
- iv. Written notification of Hearing is presented to the Complainant and Defendant and made available to the Tribal Body Membership
 1. Requires minimum of two (2) weeks advanced notice
 2. Notification shall include the following information
 - a. Name of Defendant
 - b. Name of Complainant
 - c. Matter being heard
 - d. Date, time, location of Hearing
 - e. Names of Cacique who will be Hearing the Matter
- v. Cacique Circle Hears Matter
 1. **If Defendant or Complainant refuse to or do not show for Hearing, by default they agree to abide by the Judgment of the Cacique Circle**
 2. Complainant presents argument to Cacique Circle
 - a. Presents facts regarding complaint
 - i. May call witnesses to stand
 3. Defendant presents defense to Cacique Circle
 - a. Presents facts regarding defens
 - i. May call witnesses to stand
 4. Complainant and Defendant dismissed from Cacique Circle
 5. Circle discusses Matter
- vi. Cacique Circle judges Matter
 1. Judgment must be rendered no later than one (1) calendar month after date of Hearing
 2. Requires greater than fifty (50) percent vote of approval by Cacique Circle
 3. Judgments:
 - a. Original Judgment stands
 - b. Original Judgment deemed “excessive” and/or “inappropriate and/or “unlawful”; new Judgment exacted
 - i. **Warning or Revocation of Warning against Misconduct** and/or
 - ii. **Fine or Reimbursement of Fine for Damages Rendered** and/or
 1. In the case of property or physical damage
 - iii. **Suspension or Reinstatement of Membership Privileges** and/or
 1. Specific privileges determined by Kehchisog Circle
 - iv. **Removal or Reinstatement of Position/Status**
 1. Requires two-third (2/3) vote of approval by Kehchisog Circle
 - v. **Stripping of Cacique Titles**

¹⁶ If Cacique is Accused, they shall not be eligible to vote on matter of complaint

1. Requires eighty-five (85) percent vote of approval by Cacique Circle
- vii. Written notification of Judgment is presented to the Complainant, Defendant and made available to the Tribal Body Membership
- viii. Decisions of the Cacique Circle are considered final and binding to the TTN and go into effect immediately

Section VIII: Other Matters –

Any Matter in question that is not clearly defined and/or outlined in this Constitution shall be resolved in the most morally, ethically and righteously appropriate manner possible, utilizing the policies and procedures set forth in this Constitution.

ARTICLE V: STATEMENT OF AFFIRMATION

I, Holder of the title of Cacique of the Baramaya Guainia Clan of the Taino Tribal Nation, with all of the rights and privileges associated with it, do formally accept and approve this Constitution to serve as the official structure and standard of conduct for any and all members, activities and operations associated with the Taino Tribal Nation.

I pledge to always put first our God and Creator, and our Nation before any acts of individual and/or selfish gain, and to acknowledge and understand that the opportunity to be a member of and in service to the Taino Tribal Nation, is a blessing bestowed upon us by YHWH, Numanit8mun, the one and only Great Creator.

Signed,

A red ink signature and a red ink fingerprint are visible. The signature is written in a cursive style and overlaps the fingerprint. The fingerprint is a clear, circular impression of a finger.

Ama' Guatu' "Fire River"
Principal Cacique

Date **12/15/15**