

THE OFFICIAL TRIBE OF SHABAZZ

DECLARATION OF EXISTENCE AND SELF-DETERMINATION

A Proclamation to the World

PREAMBLE

In the Name of Allah, the Beneficent, the Merciful.

We, The Official Tribe of Shabazz, acting through our own governing institutions and in solemn affirmation of our collective identity, history, dignity, responsibilities, and future, issue this Declaration as notice to the world that we exist, that we possess the inherent human right to exist as an organized people and community, and that we claim the right to preserve our identity, establish our institutions, order our internal affairs, and pursue the advancement of our people according to our governing principles and instruments, subject to applicable law.

This Declaration is not a petition for federal acknowledgment, nor is federal acknowledgment sought as a condition of our organizational identity. It is a formal proclamation of existence, continuity, self-organization, and self-determination.

FOUNDATIONAL RECITALS

WHEREAS, our foundational tradition teaches that the knowledge of the Tribe of Shabazz was restored to our people in the Wilderness of North America through the teachings associated with Master Fard Muhammad beginning in Detroit, Michigan, in 1930; and

WHEREAS, that teaching called upon our people to recover knowledge of self and kind, to stand upright in dignity, responsibility, discipline, unity, and purpose, and to recognize a history and identity greater than the condition imposed upon them; and

WHEREAS, our people and their ancestors have endured centuries of enslavement, racial oppression, family separation, deprivation of education and cultural knowledge, interference with spiritual practice, violence, exploitation, dispossession, medical abuse, and other violations of human dignity; and

WHEREAS, the memory of those experiences imposes upon succeeding generations a duty to preserve history, strengthen families, educate our people, build economic capacity, defend human dignity, and establish institutions capable of serving future generations; and

WHEREAS, we affirm the principles of Freedom, Justice, Equality, Life, Liberty, the Pursuit of Happiness, and Prosperity as enduring principles of our collective development; and

WHEREAS, we acknowledge the broader principles of human dignity, freedom of association, cultural preservation, self-determination, and the right of peoples and communities to establish institutions for their advancement;

NOW, THEREFORE, we solemnly proclaim and declare as follows:

ARTICLE I — NAME AND EXISTENCE

The organized body issuing this Declaration shall be known as **THE OFFICIAL TRIBE OF SHABAZZ**. By this instrument we formally place upon the record our declaration that we exist as an organized people and community, possessing our own identity, institutions, governing instruments, programs, records, and collective purposes.

Our existence is not created by this document. This Declaration records, affirms, and gives public notice of the existence and organization we claim for ourselves.

ARTICLE II — IDENTITY AND CONTINUITY

We reserve to ourselves the responsibility to preserve, study, teach, define, and transmit our history, traditions, symbols, principles, records, and collective identity to succeeding generations. No external characterization shall, by itself, extinguish our internal understanding of who we are.

ARTICLE III — SELF-DETERMINATION

We affirm our right, as an organized community, to determine our collective direction; establish voluntary institutions; select our internal leadership; adopt governing instruments; establish standards of membership and registration; conduct cultural, spiritual, educational, charitable, social, and economic programs; and pursue the peaceful advancement of our people.

Self-determination carries corresponding duties of responsibility, accountability, order, stewardship, and respect for the rights and dignity of others.

ARTICLE IV — SELF-GOVERNANCE AND INTERNAL ORDER

The Official Tribe of Shabazz may establish and maintain such internal offices, councils, courts or dispute-resolution bodies, departments, ministries, programs, registries, committees, corporations, trusts, and other institutions as are authorized by its governing instruments and are lawful for it to maintain.

The authority, jurisdiction, duties, limitations, and procedures of each institution shall arise from the governing instrument by which that institution is created and shall not be enlarged merely by implication.

ARTICLE V — MEMBERSHIP AND THE TRIBAL REGISTER

The Tribe may maintain an official Tribal Register identifying persons who have completed the Tribe's formal registration process and have been accepted as Registered Members under its governing rules. Registration is an internal organizational status and shall be administered according to duly adopted procedures, records, privacy protections, and rights of review or appeal.

ARTICLE VI — FAMILY, EDUCATION, ECONOMICS AND COMMUNITY PROTECTION

We recognize strong families, economic development, education, disciplined community protection, and responsible institution-building as essential to the survival and advancement of our people. We therefore reserve the right to establish lawful programs and enterprises directed toward these purposes.

ARTICLE VII — ECONOMIC INSTITUTIONS

The Tribe may establish, charter, own, sponsor, or authorize commercial and economic-development entities pursuant to its own governing instruments. Such entities shall operate according to the particular charters, bylaws, resolutions, contracts, tax requirements, registrations, and other laws applicable to their activities.

The existence of an internal Tribal charter shall not, standing alone, be represented as federal approval, state incorporation, federal acknowledgment, tax exemption, sovereign immunity, or any other external legal status unless that status has been independently established.

ARTICLE VIII — HUMAN DIGNITY AND HISTORICAL MEMORY

We remember the suffering endured by generations before us not for the purpose of perpetuating hatred, but so that dispossession, degradation, ignorance, exploitation, and the destruction of family and culture are neither forgotten nor repeated. Historical memory shall serve as instruction for reconstruction, responsibility, vigilance, and progress.

ARTICLE IX — PEACEFUL RELATIONS

We seek peaceful, honorable, and mutually beneficial relations with individuals, communities, businesses, institutions, and governments. Nothing in this Declaration shall be construed as authorizing violence, unlawful conduct, or the infringement of the lawful rights of others.

ARTICLE X — RIGHTS RESERVED

Nothing in this Declaration shall be construed as a voluntary surrender, abandonment, or waiver of any right, claim, defense, remedy, property interest, contractual right, associational right, religious liberty, or other protection that may lawfully belong to the Tribe, its institutions, or its members. Any waiver of a legal right must arise, if at all, through an instrument executed by a person or body possessing actual authority to make that waiver.

ARTICLE XI — LEGAL STATUS AND CONSTRUCTION

This Declaration is a foundational expression of identity, organization, principles of self-determination, internal governance, and institutional purpose. It shall not, standing alone, be construed as a representation that The Official Tribe of Shabazz has received federal acknowledgment as an Indian tribe, possesses Indian-country jurisdiction, enjoys a legal status or immunity reserved by law to a federally recognized Indian tribe, constitutes a foreign state recognized by the United States or another government, or is exempt from otherwise applicable law.

The Official Tribe of Shabazz does not predicate its existence upon, nor seek federal acknowledgment as a condition of, its organizational identity. References to indigenous, aboriginal, native, autochthonous, national, tribal, or similar identity within Tribal records express the Tribe's own historical, cultural, spiritual, or organizational understanding unless a particular document expressly establishes a separate legally recognized status.

ARTICLE XII — CONTINUITY OF INSTITUTIONS

Internal charters, resolutions, appointments, registrations, corporate acts, programs, and other organizational instruments previously adopted under the Tribe's governing authority may remain in effect according to their terms unless amended, superseded, repealed, dissolved, or otherwise terminated by the body possessing authority to do so.

ARTICLE XIII — NOTICE TO THE WORLD

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT KNOWN:

We, **The Official Tribe of Shabazz**, solemnly declare our existence as an organized people and community.

We affirm our right to exist, to preserve and define our collective identity, to maintain our institutions, to establish our internal governing structures, and to pursue the cultural, spiritual, educational, social, familial, and economic advancement of our people.

We seek no permission to remember who we are. We seek no permission to organize ourselves. We seek no permission to build lawful institutions for the advancement of our people.

We make this Declaration not as a request for recognition, but as an affirmation of our existence and our commitment to self-determination.

Let this Declaration stand as notice to all persons, institutions, governments, organizations, and future generations that **The Official Tribe of Shabazz exists, is organized, and intends to continue building and administering its internal institutions according to its principles and governing instruments.**

WE EXIST.

WE HAVE THE RIGHT TO EXIST.

AND WE SHALL DETERMINE OUR FUTURE.

ARTICLE XIV — PROCLAMATION, EXECUTION AND EFFECTIVE DATE

This Declaration shall become an official foundational record of The Official Tribe of Shabazz upon its execution and adoption by the duly authorized Tribal authority. It may be reproduced, published, presented, or deposited in the Tribe's records as evidence of the principles and declarations stated herein.

PROCLAIMED AND DECLARED by the duly authorized leadership of The Official Tribe of Shabazz.

FOUNDATIONAL RECORD NOTICE

This instrument is maintained as a foundational organizational declaration of The Official Tribe of Shabazz. Its purpose is to proclaim the Tribe's asserted identity, existence, principles, internal organization, and commitment to self-determination. It is not a certificate issued by the United States, a state, or another government, and it should not be presented as evidence of a governmental status that has not otherwise been legally established.