



## CITY OF ITHACA

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April 27, 2022

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Greetings,

This letter comes to you from the City of Ithaca, New York's Common Council. We write to you to voice our concern about the violence and intimidation that has been taking place within the Cayuga (Gayogoho:no) Nation of Indians, on lands they now own in and around Seneca Falls and Union Springs, New York. Our city lies at the southern end of Cayuga Lake, while the communities most affected by these recent conflicts lay at the northern end of Cayuga Lake. All of us reside within the aboriginal territory of the Cayuga Nation.

As you know, at about 3 a.m. on February 22, 2022, a contingent of Cayuga Nation Police under the direction of Mr. Clint Halftown and his governing Council seized and then bulldozed a collection of 12 buildings along NYS Route 89, just south of Seneca Falls. These buildings belonged to the Cayuga Nation and were occupied by a variety of businesses and cultural entities being run by Cayuga people not affiliated with Mr. Halftown or his supporters. The buildings included Lakeside Trading, a very successful gas station/convenience store, a canning plant, an ice cream stand and a miniature golf course. These businesses brought in large revenues and employed a significant number of Cayuga people. In addition, a schoolhouse that was used to teach Cayuga language and traditions, as well as a traditional garden that served similar educational purposes, were also destroyed. At least three Cayuga men who were serving as security guards to the buildings were handcuffed with zip ties and hauled away by the recently hired, non-Indian, Cayuga Nation Police.