



Gayogohó:nq´

Cayuga Nation Council of Chiefs

PO Box 433

Union Springs, New York

13160

November 5, 2024

Mayor Jim Orman

Village of Aurora

456 Main Street

Aurora, New York

13026

Greetings Mayor Orman

The traditional Gayogohó:nq´ (Cayuga) Nation Council of Chiefs, Clanmothers, Faithkeepers, men, women and children send greetings and are hopeful you are in good health and spirits at this time.

The Gayogohó:nq´ Nation homelands have been centered around Cayuga lake since time immemorial.

In 1779 from June thru October the Clinton Sullivan Scorched Earth campaign that was mandated by General George Washington “to cut off their settlements, destroy their crops, and inflict on them every other injury which time and circumstances would permit.”

Specifically on September 23rd and 24th Colonel Butler destroyed a Gayogohó:nq´ village in what is now the village of Aurora. Colonel Butler’s men referred to this village as Chonodote or Peach town due to approximately 1500 peach trees along with other fruit trees that grew in the area.

Wells College has occupied this Gayogohó:nq´ village since the Gayogohó:nq´ Nation was driven from their homelands. Wells College has been working with the Gayogohó:nq´

Nation and SHARE (Strengthening Haudenosaunee-American Relations through Education) on replanting peach trees honoring our connection to these particular lands.

On the announcement of Wells College closing, we ask that the lands that Wells College occupied illegally be returned to the rightful owners, the Traditional Gayogohó:nq' Nation Council of Chiefs.

In peace respect and friendship

On behalf of the Cayuga Nation Council of Chiefs

Gaji'nqodáwehēh Steve Maracle Chief Steve Maracle

Gadagwá:sē Andy Warner Andy Warner

Shoyq:we:s Samuel George Samuel George

Hagya'drohne Blake Bomberry Chief Blake Bomberry

Deyohqwé:tq Roger Silversmith Roger Silversmith

Hadqdá:heha William C. Jacobs Chief William C. Jacobs

Deskaheh Steven E. Jacobs Deskaheh

CC:

Janet Murphy

JD Baloni

John Miller

Matt Bianconi