

KAHNAWÀ:KE JUSTICE COMMISSION
P.O. Box 1239
Kahnawà:ke Mohawk Territory

For Immediate Release

Kahnawà:ke, Kenténha/October 26, 2009

The Kahnawà:ke Justice Commission would like to respond to the community in reference to the two Press Releases issued by the Six Nation Iroquois Confederacy's secretary, Atsenhaién:ton Kenneth Deer, on September 27, 2009 concerning the Community Decision-Making Process and the current justice initiative.

The Justice Commission has consistently invited the three Longhouses to participate in justice discussions from 1998 to present which also included personal invitations to participate in the most recent community forums on the Community Decision-Making Process and the current mandate for a Kahnawà:ke Justice System.

We believe this to be a peoples' process which is inclusive of the whole community regardless of political ideology or perceived allegiance. This process cannot be claimed to be owned by any specific group. It is ours to use as a means of building consensus to achieve an objective. Justice and the confidence of knowing that an individual's concerns will be addressed in an objective and timely manner should not be owned or dictated by a select group. The Kahnawà:ke Justice Commission is of the opinion that this process and initiative is a method of bringing the community closer together by having positive discussion on an issue that affects everyone. The intention is to remove the barriers that have been put up concerning this and other issues that affect our community.

We must also remember that in 1988, individuals from the Longhouse were mandated to work with the Justice Committee of the Mohawk Council of Kahnawà:ke on a "Joint Task Force on Justice" (please see attached). The Kahnawà:ke Justice Commission does not have any knowledge nor has it ever been informed that this mandate had been rescinded or modified. The invitation is ever-present to work in collaboration with the community and the Longhouses which are an important part of our community.

We all know what has to be done. It appears that the sticking point is "Who is going to do it?" Let's put that difference aside and move forward for the benefit of everyone in the community. We should all enjoy the protection and security of having confidence in a Kahnawà:ke justice system that is developed by the people for the people.

Information:

Ron Skye, Chairperson
Kahnawà:ke Justice Commission
(450) 638-5647

JUSTICE IN KAHNAWAKE

Justice Committee of the Longhouse:

Brian Deer
Philip Deering
Alan Delaronde
Dale Dione
Babe Hemlock
Cookie McComber

Justice Committee of the Mohawk [Band] Council of Kahnawake:

Peggy Mayo, Coordinator
Tessie Goodleaf, Band Council rep
Joey Montour, Peacekeeper rep
Martha Montour, community rep
Bud Morris, Band Council rep
Allen Peterson, Conservation rep
Davis Rice, Band Council rep
Kathy Rice, Social Services rep

Joint Task Force on Justice

The formation of a Joint Task Force on Justice was agreed upon at a meeting between the Band Council and the Longhouse on March 14, 1988. The purpose of the Joint Task Force is to look at outstanding issues concerning justice and judicial jurisdiction in Kahnawake. The Joint Task Force is composed of all of the members of the Longhouse Justice Committee, and some of the members of the Kahnawake band's justice committee

Brian Deer
Philip Deering
Alan Delaronde
Dale Dione
Babe Hemlock
Cookie McComber

Walter Goodleaf
Peggy Mayo
Eugene Montour
Joey Montour
Martha Montour
Bud Morris
Allen Peterson
Billy Two Rivers