

CAYUGA NATION FEDERALLY RECOGNIZED
LEADERSHIP TELLS PROTESTERS:
“MAKE YOUR PROTEST PEACEFUL”

We have learned that the Unity Council, supported by those who caused the melee on our reservation on February 29, is hosting another event today. While we hope that this protest will be conducted in a peaceful fashion, we have every reason to believe it will not.

Based on the violence that broke out on February 29, we know that this group is led by Canadians who have reached out to members of other nations, including the Seneca, Mohawk, and Onondaga nations, none of whom have any business in the Cayuga Nation’s affairs. And we also know that this group only intends to cause disruption and commit more acts of violence, just as they did at their previous gathering—one that they said was going to be a press conference, but which they turned into a riot.

If the small group of Cayuga Nation citizens who continue to oppose our leadership wish to protest our actions in reclaiming the properties the Unity Council unlawfully seized, let them do so in a peaceful manner and we will honor that protest in a respectful manner. What we will not respect are the actions of Canadians who are coming across the border and conspiring with members of the Seneca, Mohawk, and Onondaga nations—as well as other non-Cayuga individuals—to once again create havoc on our reservation. Our Nation Police will be monitoring this event to maintain the peace, as always.

We have also seen that this group continues to make a plea for donations, suggesting that by regaining possession of the properties they took from our Nation we have caused them harm. This is not true and is just an effort to create unwarranted sympathy. We took back a business they illegally operated for almost six years, putting millions of dollars into their own pockets and many of our employees out of work. We took back our office, which, after they drove a truck through

the window and stole our Nation files and equipment, required us to relocate and rebuild our office. There was no daycare, there was no longhouse.

No one—be they members of other Indian nations or non-Natives—will be permitted to come to our reservation to cause violence. And we ask that any protest by *Cayuga citizens—and Cayuga citizens only*—be peaceful.