



Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Indians

Executive Branch of Tribal Government

Office of the Chief Executive

Via E-mail

Virgil Wind, Chief Executive
Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe
43408 Oodena Drive
Onamia, MN 56359-2236

March 20, 2025

Clemency Review Commission
520 Lafayette Road North
St. Paul, MN 55155

Re: Brian Pippitt

To Whom It May Concern

Greetings. I write with respect to Brian Pippitt, who is an enrolled member of the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe. It is my understanding that Mr. Pippitt is scheduled to appear before you on April 4, 2025, on a hearing to determine whether he should be eligible for clemency. Please accept this letter as an explanation of what benefits he may be eligible for through the Band upon his release.

Regarding health benefits, Mr. Pippitt would—immediately upon his release—be able to access an array of health and human services on the Mille Lacs Band reservation, including healthcare, mental health services, Elder services, food support, case management, and secondary health insurance coverage. More information about these services is available at <https://millelacsband.com/government/resources1/department-of-health-human-services>.

Mr. Pippitt's options for housing through the Band are a little more complicated. The Band does operate a Senior Living facility near Onamia, MN, which is administered according to a Senior Living Resident Handbook. Based on the grave nature of Mr. Pippitt's conviction, it is possible—and perhaps even likely—that the admissions board will deny him entry unless the conviction is removed from his record. And although Mr. Pippitt is free to apply for the Band's low-rent housing program, regular rent housing program, or Elder home program, all of these programs impose a lifetime ban on any Band member convicted of First, Second, or Third Degree Murder. Consequently, it is not likely that Mr. Pippitt will be able to obtain housing through any of the Band's more conventional programs.

For Band members struggling to find permanent housing, the Band does operate a restorative housing program called Zakab Biinjina. This program intends to bridge the gap from

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homelessness to permanent housing by offering structure, supervision, support, life skills, education, and training. But clients must first complete 90 days of working with a case manager before they may be admitted. (More information about Zakab Biinjina is available at <https://aanji.org>.) The Band also operates a hotel called Mino Bimaadiziwin which offers bargain rates to short-term homeless people. Although neither Zakab nor the Mino are designed as permanent solutions, they may nevertheless be available to Mr. Pippitt should he find himself in need.

Thank you for considering Mr. Pippitt's application, and feel free to contact me at virgil.wind@millelacsband.com with any additional questions.

Miigwech,



Virgil Wind
Chief Executive
Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe

Enclosures:

1. Senior Living Resident Handbook, dated April 6, 2023.
2. Rental Admission Policy, dated December 4, 2009.