



AN UPDATE FROM THE SENECA NATION

Public Safety

**RALLY
AGAINST**



DRUGS!



FEBRUARY 2026

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Hey, Hey, Nya:wëh Sgë:nö',

Public safety has been a priority of my administration since the day I was sworn in as President. Today, our Nation faces a public safety crisis unlike anything we have experienced in recent memory.

Drug trafficking has been rampant on our territories. Dealers have strategically targeted Seneca lands, exploiting established trafficking routes between major markets from Canada to New York City and preying on our people. Too often, non-Native traffickers exploit Seneca women- introducing them to substances, pushing them into sex work, and in some cases coercing them into pregnancies to cement their access to our community.

At the same time, homeless encampments and transient activity have created heightened anxiety and fear among our residents. Violent crimes- including violence committed by Senecas themselves are frequently tied to drug trafficking and its destructive rippling effects. In 2025 alone, our Nation endured three homicides within a 60-day period. Families have expressed to us that they no longer feel safe in their own community.

Our people have not remained silent. Community members, like Seneca Mothers Against Drug Dealers, have taken courageous and deeply personal risks by standing up to known drug dealers, often placing themselves in harm's way. Their actions reflect both the strength of our people and the urgency of this moment. These efforts have sounded the alarm, and they have made it clear: change is not optional.

We have heard our community's demands, and we have taken action. This newsletter outlines the steps we have taken to confront this crisis head-on. Working alongside Executive offices, multiple Nation departments, community leaders, outside governments, and law enforcement partners, we have enacted critical measures over the past several months to improve public safety, strengthen law enforcement, and enhance our sovereignty on Seneca territories.

There is no singular solution to this crisis. We must address this crisis with sustained effort, constant engagement, vigilance, cooperation, and advocacy on every level. As President, I continue to pursue every available avenue - community-based, local, state, and federal - to ensure our people receive the protection and security they deserve.

Through the initiatives detailed here, including the creation of new governmental structures, successful advocacy for state legislation, pursuit of federal legislative reform, regular consultation with the Seneca community, and cooperation with County sheriffs, we have made historic progress in strengthening our capacity to protect our Seneca people, families, and territories. We will continue to take every possible measure to safeguard our Nation. That is the commitment I make to our people and community.

**Nya:weh,
J. Conrad Seneca**

Timeline of Key Events & Initiatives

August 2024: Seneca Nation works with local law enforcement to remove homeless encampments from Pennsy Trail system on the Allegany Territory.

September 2024: Seneca Nation donates seven surveillance cameras to City of Salamanca to help monitor Pennsy Trail system.

October 2024: Seneca Nation provides funding to Cattaraugus County Sheriff's Office for purchase and training of narcotic detection K9 to combat narcotics trafficking on the Allegany Territory.



Former Seneca Nation President Rickey Armstrong Sr. and Cattaraugus County Sheriff Eric Butler

February 2025: Council acts to pursue changes to federal and state law to improve public safety and reduce drug trafficking in Nation territories.

May 2025: Established Public Safety Commission by executive order to coordinate, strengthen, and expand the Nation's law enforcement capabilities.

June 2025: New York State legislature passes laws to strengthen authority to remove intruders and enter into law enforcement agreements.

July 2025: Seneca Nation leaders hosts a day-long, multi-agency law enforcement summit on the Allegany Territory including state, county, and city law enforcement agencies focused on combating illegal drug activity and drug trafficking on the Nation's territories.

July 2025: Seneca leadership, Chief Marshals, SNI Conservation, and Seneca Mothers Against Drug Dealers host senior officials from the U.S. Department of Justice, Western District of New York and federal law enforcement agencies to establish formal partnerships for addressing drug trafficking and public safety. That meeting included discussions with the U.S. Attorney regarding assistance with removing non-Native drug traffickers from Seneca territory.

October 2025 - The Seneca Nation demands action in writing and at a press conference from City of Salamanca officials in light of an exchange between the City's Police Chief and the Cattaraugus County District Attorney which contemplates hostility, and even criminal charges, against Seneca Nation Marshals enforcing Executive Exclusion orders that seek the removal of known non-Seneca drug dealers and users from Nation territory.



Timeline of Key Events & Initiatives



October 2025: Seneca Nation provides funding to Erie County Sheriff's Office for purchase and training of narcotic detection K9 to combat narcotics trafficking on the Cattaraugus Territory

November 2025: Seneca Nation Public Safety Commission works with Erie County and Cattaraugus County to establish confidential tip lines, so residents can anonymously report crimes and suspected criminal activity in their communities to local law enforcement.



December 2025: Seneca Nation Council authorizes President Seneca to enter into formal law enforcement agreements with county sheriffs to provide enhanced law enforcement presence and response within Nation territories.

December 2025: Following public calls from President Seneca to do so, New York Governor Kathy Hochul signs S8127/A8289 into law. The new law clarifies existing law, enabling the Seneca Nation to better work in coordinated partnership with New York State Police, County Sheriffs and City of Salamanca police in removing non-Native intruders engaged in drug trafficking and other illicit activities from the Seneca Nation's sovereign territories.

January 2026: Brian Mohr is appointed the Seneca Nation's first Law Enforcement Commissioner.

January 2026: Congressman Nick Langworthy introduces the Seneca Nation Law Enforcement Efficiency Act (H.R. 7065), a bill proposed and supported by Nation leadership, repealing federal law 25 U.S.C. 232, enacted by Congress in 1948 over the objection of the Seneca Nation, which gave New York State criminal and civil jurisdiction over Seneca Nation lands.



Seneca Nation Welcomes Home

Brian A. Mohr as New Law Enforcement Commissioner

The Seneca Nation has appointed Brian Mohr as the Nations Law Enforcement Commissioner, effective January of 2026. Born on the Allegany Territory, Brian is the son of the late Ervin "Hunk" and Bonnie Mohr. Brian was married to the late Cindy Kennedy Mohr and together they share two children, Travis Mohr and Jessica Ludwick, along with five grandchildren and many family ties to both the Allegany and Cattaraugus Territories. With more than 25 years of dedicated law enforcement experience, Mohr is uniquely qualified to serve in this role.

Before beginning his law enforcement career, Mohr spent 14 years as a certified teacher with the Salamanca City School District. During that time, he served as a Seneca Language teacher, Iroquois Studies instructor, Varsity Boys Head Lacrosse coach, Administrator of the Indian Education office, and Youth Career Counselor. He also worked with the Seneca Nation Education Department as a Community Resource Specialist and served as assistant coach to the Junior Men's Haudenosaunee Nationals lacrosse team.

Mohr began his law enforcement career in 1996, and from the start, his work centered on protecting Native communities. He became an expert in domestic violence investigations and elder abuse cases, working directly with Native families across New York State. Mohr is a certified national and state instructor on domestic violence and has brought that knowledge home through ongoing collaborations with Seneca Nation's Crime Victim Services department.

His service also includes work with the New York State Native American Services Commission, the National Native American Law Enforcement Association, and numerous New York State committees focused on protecting Native communities. Mohr's law enforcement experience is extensive. He served 18 years on a SWAT team, trained as a hostage negotiator, and participated in local drug task forces operations, while often teaching at the police academy. Throughout his career, he consistently acted as a bridge between the Seneca Nation and outside agencies- ensuring our people were treated with respect and cultural understanding while protecting the Nation's interest.

What This Means Going Forward

As the Law Enforcement Commissioner, Mohr's role is to strengthen the Seneca Nations own law enforcement capacity. This includes training our own community members and Marshals, assisting in developing our own legal systems, and creating policies and procedures grounded in Seneca culture and values. It means ensuring that when our elders need help, when our families face crisis, and when our community needs protection, we have systems in place that respect who we are as Seneca people.



Brian A. Mohr
Law Enforcement Commissioner
Brian.Mohr@sni.org



Public Safety Commission

Safety and security are top priorities on the Nation's territories.

President Seneca established the Seneca Nation Public Safety Commission by executive order on May 6, 2025. The Commission is directed to assist Council with strengthening public safety and law enforcement efforts as the Nation exercises its inherent sovereignty to remove criminals, trespassers, and intruders from our territories.

Key Purposes of the Commission

The Commission shall identify, review, and implement Council approved law enforcement programs, activities and problem-solving initiatives that promote safe and secure Seneca communities. Together with Seneca elected leadership, the Commission will support solutions and review any potential government-approved efforts to address the problems of on-territory crime, illicit drug activity, fear of crime and other conditions that give rise to public safety issues within our communities.

The Commission will also assist the Nation government with recruitment and training of current Marshals and Conservation Officers, as well as support the development of an annual, government-approved law enforcement budget.

In coordination with the Seneca Nation Law Enforcement Commissioner, the Commission will work to facilitate collaboration with federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies, including the potential establishment of an Operation Team for confidential joint enforcement efforts.

Finally, the Commission shall undertake any additional related actions necessary to protect the health, safety, and well-being of the Seneca people, guests, and business patrons.

Commission Members

President J. Conrad Seneca, Chair

Klint Nephew, Councillor & Vice Chair

Al E. George, Treasurer

Lenith K. Waterman, Clerk

Jeff Gill, Councillor (former Erie County Sheriff's Deputy & SNI Marshal)

Odie Porter, Councillor

Christian Reiller, Councillor

Kevin Seneca, Councillor (former BIA Police Officer)

Jody Clark, TERO Director & Allegany SSMAD

Lucille White, Cattaraugus SMADD (former CPDD Director & Highway Commissioner)

Peter Maybee, Vice President of Corporate Security at Seneca Gaming Corporation (former Indian Affairs Chief, Office of Homeland Security & Emergency Services)

Brian A. Mohr, Law Enforcement Commissioner (Retired Erie County Sheriff's Deputy)

John Adlai Williams Jr., (former Councillor & Marshal)

Brian Snyder (Former New York State Police Officer)

Brad Mobawk, Erie County Sheriff's Deputy

Tom Thompson Jr., Cattaraugus Chief Marshal

David Isaac, Allegany Chief Marshal

Dr. Robbie Jimerson Jr., Chief Information Officer

Some Key Actions Undertaken by the Commission

- Launch of the Seneca Nation's confidential Tip Line Service in partnership with the Cattaraugus County and Erie County Sheriffs' Offices. This service allows the community to report public safety alerts and tips (confidentially if desired).
- Supported efforts to secure federal funding to purchase important safety equipment for public safety services.
- Collaboration with the Allegany Marshals Department to ensure regular patrols cover the Redhouse area and Redhouse Bridge, as well as the installation of new "Restricted Area" signs to deter safety and vandalism issues.
- Partnered with Cattaraugus and Allegany Marshals to increase patrols in areas known for drug activity in order to protect the community.
- Promoted community education and prevention efforts, including drug awareness presentations with Seneca Strong, public safety billboards, lawn signs, and the planning of future safety programs for parents and children.
- Collaborated with the Marshals Departments on their annual budget to ensure programs better reflects the public safety needs of the community.

Future Initiatives

- Expanding the Tip Line Service to include the mobile 4-1-1 App which will make it easier for people to send tips directly from their phones.
- Training opportunities for Seneca Nation Marshals in order to enhance their skill level.
- Acquiring additional traffic cameras in other key areas to protect the community from dangerous traffic hazards.

Seneca Nation Government Action

Along with the critical work being done within the Seneca community at the grassroots level and the partnerships being built with outside governments, the Seneca Nation government is also taking comprehensive steps to refine strategies to protect the Nation's people and its territories.

At the Executive and Council level, Nation leaders have taken decisive action to remove individuals who present a threat to the Seneca people. In the summer of 2024, the Nation worked in collaboration with the Salamanca Police Department to remove homeless encampments from the Pennsy Trail system and other areas on the Allegany Territory. Evidence of drug use, aggressive behavior toward residents and those using the trail, and other unsafe conditions at the encampments threatened the safety and quality of life of the community. Seneca Nation Conservation Department, Marshals, and the Department of Public Works conducted a multi-day removal. The team removed enough refuse and debris to fill **six 30-foot dumpsters and cleared more than 30 vagrant encampments**. Since the initial cleanup, Nation departments have remained vigilant during daily patrols and have responded to sightings as they are being reported. As a follow-up measure, the Nation donated seven surveillance cameras to the City of Salamanca to help monitor the Pennsy Trail system.

Since November 2024, President Seneca has issued multiple Executive Exclusion Orders against known non-Seneca drug dealers and other dangerous criminals who are a threat to the Seneca people. Coupled with the President's Executive Orders, the Seneca Nation's Council has also passed council resolutions to exclude Seneca members from territory who have been charged with homicide and other serious crimes. In addition, the Nation has moved to evict tenants at several properties on Nation lands where criminal activity is known and proven to have taken place.



In response to an increase in questionable conduct, littering, vandalism, and hazardous automotive operations on Old Road on the Allegany Territory, President Seneca issued an Executive Order labeling the Old Road area and areas on the Cattaraugus Territory as Culturally Sensitive Areas, restricting access to those areas to Seneca Nation members only.

Under the President's Executive Order, Seneca Nation Marshals and the Conservation Department have the authority to actively patrol these areas and remove any individuals who are not permitted. The Marshals and Conservation Department patrol the Old Road area on regular hourly intervals, seeking to maintain the safety, health and welfare of our community, wildlife, natural resources and fisheries.

In addition, the Conservation Department is actively enforcing Nation Conservation laws related to activities including: trespassing, illegal harvesting of trees, illegal gravel removal from waterways, littering, property abandonment, camping restrictions, and waste disposal.

Addressing ICE Concerns in the Seneca Community

Recent events and ongoing national reports of concerning interactions between private citizens and U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) have created heightened concern and uncertainty in communities across the country, including within the Seneca Nation and other Native Nations.

In November 2025, ICE agents approached two non-Seneca casino employees on the Seneca Nations Niagara Falls Territory as they walked from the employee casino parking lot towards the Seneca Niagara Resort & Casino. One individual was detained. The Seneca Nation did not receive prior notice of ICE's presence on our sovereign territory. Upon learning of the incident, President Seneca immediately issued correspondence to U.S. Homeland Security (DHS) Secretary Kristi Noem to reaffirm the Seneca Nation's sovereignty and the treaty-based relationship between the Seneca Nation and the United States. The letter further emphasized the Nation's established entry protocols for federal departments.

Since 2015, the Seneca Nation has established formal procedures governing requests by federal governmental agencies seeking to enter Seneca Nation territories for non-criminal law enforcement, or non-emergency activities. These protocols require a written request submitted to the Office of the President with **at least 72 hour in advance** of their proposed date and time of entering Nation territory. Approval or denial of such requests rests solely with the President of the Seneca Nation.

In late January, Nation officials met with Department of Homeland Security's Senior Tribal Advisor for Indian Affairs, David Flute, to address the incident. During this meeting, Flute issued an apology for the entry onto Nation territory and stated that he was unaware that the Seneca Niagara property was no longer a part of the City of Niagara Falls. Nation officials also discussed the communities concerns and provided examples of Seneca Nation tribal identification cards to ensure that ICE personnel are properly trained to recognize Seneca Nation ID's.

As the national political landscape continues to evolve, it is important for our community to remain informed and prepared. The Seneca Nation is located within a border region, and many members regularly travel domestically and internationally, including to Canada, for personal, family, cultural, and recreational purposes. All Seneca Nation members are strongly encouraged to carry valid, up-to-date identification at all times, including:

- A Seneca Nation Tribal ID (with a current expiration date)
- A valid drivers license or other government ID
- A birth certificate or passport

In the event of an interaction with ICE personnel- whether on Seneca territories or elsewhere- members should be aware that Tribal ID's are federally recognized forms of identification and are compliant with REAL ID standards as recognized by the Transportation Security Administration (TSA)

The Seneca Nation remains fully committed to protecting our people, our territories, and our sovereignty. In recent weeks, Nation officials have continued direct engagement with federal representatives to ensure they are informed on Seneca Nation identification documents and understand their validity and appearance.

Need assistance obtaining a Seneca Nation ID?
Please contact the Seneca Nation's Clerk's Office by
calling (716) 532-4900 or (716) 945-1790

If you encounter ICE or have encountered ICE
Please contact the Seneca Nation's Marshals Department
A: (716) 945-2779 C: (716) 532-8211





Amendments to NYS Law Enhance Coordination Between the Seneca Nation & Outside Law Enforcement

In a busy and productive advocacy year in Albany, one of the Seneca Nation’s key priorities was securing legislation to help in the ongoing battle against illegal drug activity on Nation territories. This work led to the unanimous passage of a bill in both the New York State Senate and New York State Assembly in June 2025, thereby amending New York Indian Law Section 8 and adding a new Section 79. In December 2025, the Governor signed the legislation into law.

“Securing this new legislation was a long-awaited and hard-fought victory for the Seneca people,” said Seneca Nation President J. Conrad Seneca. “The law provides a new, needed and incredibly powerful tool in ridding Seneca territory of non-Native people who are using our territories as a haven for drug trafficking and drug use. This should send a clear message to those individuals who are terrorizing our people: the Seneca Nation will stop at nothing to protect our people, our territories, and our communities.”

The Section 8 amendments include:

- Expanded definition of prohibited activities to explicitly include conducting business and engaging in drug trafficking on tribal lands.
- Tribal Determination is Conclusive: The Nation’s determination or designation of a person as an intruder is now legally conclusive—state courts **MUST** accept the Nation’s determination that a person is an intruder.
- District Attorney Action: District attorneys must make complaint and cause removal upon written application from the person or entity designated by the Nation’s laws.
- Enhanced Penalties: Increased jail time for repeat offenders from 30 to 90 days.
- Asset Confiscation: Courts may order confiscation or removal of business operations, drug trafficking materials or equipment, junkyards, and automobile graveyards, subject to Nation’s consent.



The new Section 79 authorizes the Seneca Nation to enter into formal law enforcement agreements with state and local authorities, representing a groundbreaking recognition of tribal sovereignty.

Key components include:

- **Authorized Partners:** At the Nation's request, the Governor, Superintendent of State Police, County sheriffs, or Salamanca Police Chief may enter into agreements with the Seneca Nation.
- **Agreement Scope:** May include provisions defining criminal offenses and penalties, deputation, extradition, and other related matters.
- **Court Recognition:** State courts must give full force and effect to provisions of any agreement in criminal proceedings arising from offenses committed on Seneca lands.

“Armed with the clarity of this new legislation, we will immediately begin working with our local law enforcement partners on agreements and strategies to cooperatively address the issues facing our territories,” President Seneca said. “We have to finally put a stop to what has been going on for far too long. Drug dealers have had the upper hand. That’s going to change.”

EXPLANATION OF ENHANCED LAW ENFORCEMENT SERVICES AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE SENECA NATION, CATTARAUGUS COUNTY, AND THE CATTARAUGUS COUNTY SHERIFF’S OFFICE

The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Seneca Nation, Cattaraugus County, and the Cattaraugus County Sheriff’s Office (CCSO) provides for enhanced law enforcement services on the Seneca Nation’s Allegany Territory. The MOU is intended to increase public safety within the Allegany Territory while also offering greater respect and deference to the Seneca Nation’s sovereignty. Pursuant to the MOU, the Seneca Nation will now take a more active role in shaping how CCSO conducts its law enforcement activities on the Allegany Territory.

The Seneca Nation understands that the public may have some questions regarding the MOU and in the interest of transparency, below are a few frequently asked questions about the terms of the MOU.

How Does the MOU Impact the Seneca Nation’s Sovereignty?

The MOU is an exercise of the Seneca Nation’s sovereignty and a recognition of the Seneca Nation’s sovereign authority over the Territory. In 1948, Congress enacted 25 U.S.C. § 232, which gave the State of New York criminal jurisdiction over all reservations in the State. For more than 75 years the State has exercised that jurisdiction with little or no input from the affected Native Nations. By entering the MOU, the Seneca Nation now has the ability to directly influence the way state law enforcement activity – meaning the focus of enforcement activity and the areas of patrol – is conducted within the Allegany Territory. Moreover, the MOU can be viewed as an acknowledgment by the County and the CCSO that the Seneca Nation is a sovereign nation capable of entering into government-to-government agreements.

How Long Will This Agreement Be In Effect?

The initial term of the MOU is three (3) years. The parties can mutually agree to extend the term of the MOU for an additional three (3) years.



How Much Will This Agreement Cost The Seneca Nation?

The estimated cost of this new arrangement is expected to be \$2 million over three years. The actual cost may be higher or lower than the estimated cost. The MOU requires the CCSO and the County to render true and accurate accountings and billings and the Seneca Nation has reserved the right to question any bills or invoices. Once an accounting or billing is questioned by the Seneca Nation, the Nation is under no obligation to pay the questioned costs or bills until reasonable supporting documentation is provided to the Nation. The first year of the MOU has the highest cost due to the purchase of a new canine (K9) unit and two (2) patrol cars. Once the patrol cars are rotated out of CCSO service, the title to the vehicles shall be returned to the Seneca Nation.

What "Enhanced Law Enforcement Services" Are Being Provided By The Sheriff's Office?

Under the MOU, the CCSO will provide one patrol officer, for two 8-hour shifts per day, 365 days per year. The law enforcement services provided by the CCSO will be primarily focused on combating drug and sex trafficking, community safety, and removal of vagrants and trespassers from the Territory. "Community safety" activities will be focused on Jimersontown, Kill Buck, Steamburg, and the City of Salamanca. The CCSO will also be required to occasionally deploy a K9 unit trained in patrol and narcotics detection at Seneca Nation-owned properties to detect and deter illegal activity.

Where Will The Sheriff's Be Stationed?

The CCSO will have a station on Seneca Nation-owned property located within the City of Salamanca. It is anticipated that the CCSO will not maintain a constant presence at their station, as the CCSO's deputies are expected to routinely patrol the Allegany Territory.

How Will The Nation's Oversight of the Sheriff's Office Be Handled?

The CCSO will maintain its independence but the Seneca Nation will oversee the implementation of the MOU and monitor its effectiveness. Oversight of the MOU will be handled by the Seneca Nation's Law Enforcement Commissioner, who, in turn, is subject to oversight and supervision by the Public Safety Commission.

Does This Agreement Contradict The Results Of The 2024 Advisory Law Enforcement Referendum?

No. In fact, entering into agreements such as the MOU with the CCSO was expressly left open as an option for ensuring the public safety of Seneca Nation Territories.

The 2024 Advisory Law Enforcement Referendum was a two-question referendum intended to: (A) assess public support for the creation and operation of a Seneca Nation Police Department; and (B) determine the extent of a hypothetical police department's criminal jurisdiction. Both Question A and Question B of the 2024 Advisory Law Enforcement Referendum were accompanied by explanatory notes that informed the public of the effect of voting "YES" or voting "NO" to each of the two questions. The full text of the questions and explanatory notes were provided to the public during public meetings and/or through informational materials that were mailed well in advance of the advisory referendum. Additionally, the Council Resolution authorizing the Law Enforcement Referendum included the full text of the two referendum questions, as well as the explanatory notes.

As relevant here, under Question B, it was explained that a "NO" vote to Question B "...would not prohibit the Seneca Nation from seeking alternative arrangements to increase the outside law enforcement presence on Territory." Consequently, the possibility of a future agreement with outside law enforcement, such as the MOU, remained a viable option to increase public safety on Territory.

What Types of Training Will the Sheriffs And The Marshals Receive?

All CCSO deputies shall be required to receive the customary training for police officers required by state law, they must satisfy the County's field training requirements, and they are required to attend any cultural training offered by the Seneca Nation.

As part of the MOU, CCSO and the County have committed to recruit, hire, and train Seneca Nation members for appropriate positions within the CCSO, subject to civil service and other applicable laws.

Legislation Watch:

Seneca Nation Law Enforcement Efficiency Act (H.R. 7065)

In January 2026, the Seneca Nation announced that the Seneca Nation Law Enforcement Efficiency Act, a key piece of federal law enforcement legislation proposed and actively supported by Nation leaders, was officially introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives by Congressman Nick Langworthy.

The Bill (H.R. 7065) is designed to address long-standing jurisdictional confusion that has compromised law enforcement activities on Nation lands. In particular, the legislation will nullify an outdated, ineffective decades-old law, passed by Congress in 1948, giving New York State criminal jurisdiction on Seneca lands, despite the Nation's objection.

“During the Indian Termination Era 80 years ago, Congress gave New York State criminal jurisdiction to prosecute and incarcerate the Seneca people. The Termination Era is over, but this law remains on the books,” said Seneca Nation President J. Conrad Seneca. “The Seneca Nation is going to advocate for Congress to support Congressman Langworthy’s legislation and pass the Seneca Nation Law Enforcement Efficiency Act. This bill exercises our sovereignty and provides the Seneca Nation another long-needed tool for improving law enforcement on our lands. We will continue to take every possible measure to protect our people and our territories.”

“When authority is fragmented and accountability is unclear, resourceful criminals exploit the gaps and that’s exactly what we’ve seen happen,” said Congressman Langworthy. “This legislation will make our communities safer, and that is a goal we all share.”

The Seneca Nation Law Enforcement Efficiency Act removes New York State’s automatic criminal and civil jurisdiction over Seneca Nation lands established under the 1948 law, but only if both the Seneca Nation and the U.S. Attorney General agree in writing to such a change. The legislation does not mandate any immediate action; instead, it creates a clear legal mechanism to resolve jurisdictional confusion when all parties determine it is appropriate.

The bill addresses the fundamental jurisdictional problem that has enabled criminal exploitation of Seneca territories. By providing a clear pathway to resolve the confusion created by the 1948 law, it strengthens public safety accountability and reduces opportunities for illegal activities to flourish under legal uncertainty.



SENECA MOTHERS AGAINST DRUG DEALERS

For the past five years, community volunteers, primarily Seneca mothers and grandmothers from both Territories, have placed themselves directly in harm's way to protect children and families. Seneca Mothers Against Drug Dealers (SMADD), on the Cattaraugus Territory, and the Seneca & Salamanca Mothers Against Drugs (SSMAD), on the Allegany Territory, refuse to wait for someone else to solve the drug problem. Volunteers-armed with lawn chairs, spotlights, portable fire pits, and protest signs go directly to suspected drug houses to disrupt illicit drug activity in their neighborhood. While the specific challenges may vary between territories, both groups work together to support local needs, raise awareness, and push for meaningful change. Their mission is clear: create a safer environment, encourage sober living, and promote healthy family and community activities for all.



This is not easy work. Every person who shows up does so voluntarily and participates only in the ways they feel comfortable. Many of the participants have lost family members from overdoses and are personally invested in preventing further deaths. Meetings, work sessions, and public events help share information and build unity, but peaceful protests are often the most visible and effective way to draw attention to these ongoing problems. Members have had guns pointed at them, eggs and stones thrown at them, yet they continue to show up because they understand what is at stake: our children, our families, and our future.

The leaders within these groups have been instrumental in advocating for strong, decisive action by the Seneca Nation to remove drug dealers from our territories and shut down drug houses. Their courage and persistence have helped keep pressure on leadership at every level to prioritize public safety and protect our communities.

If you would like to support SSMAD or SMADD, consider attend a meeting. They are open to everyone, you do not have to be a mother to participate. You can also provide confidential reports of suspicious activity in your area. Reach out through the SSAMD/SMADD Facebook page, where meeting notices, "Street Crew" gathering locations, public updates, and other important information is shared. Together, we can continue building safer, stronger communities for the next generation.



SENECA STRONG: HEALING AND RECOVERY FOR OUR PEOPLE



Since 2014, Seneca Strong has been dedicated to addressing the opioid crisis and substance use challenges that have deeply impacted too many of our families. Using a peer outreach and recovery support model, Seneca Strong meets people where they are-offering compassionate, community based services that promote healing and hope. The program includes a drop-in recreation center, connections to inpatient and outpatient treatment, support groups, and local 12-step programs. In addition to these essential services, Seneca Strong leads community education and prevention efforts, recognizing that healing requires strengthening the entire community.

While the program has long offered critical support to individuals struggling with addiction, the program is now expanding to include new and innovative services rooted in trauma-informed care. This approach acknowledges that trauma is often one of the root cause of many challenges, including substance use. The goal of recovery support is to help people find healthier ways to cope and release their trauma. Grounded in the understanding that ongoing trauma focused healing is essential for true wellness, resilience, and long-term recovery. Seneca Strong now incorporates holistic healing practices such as meditation, nature-based activities, energy work, and traditional ceremonies including talking circles. These culturally grounded practices honor our traditions while supporting the mind, body, and spirit.

One of the most powerful strengths of Seneca Strong is its people. The program relies on Certified Recovery Peer Advocates- who are Seneca community members who have lived through addiction and found their path to recovery. They have lived and understand the complex struggles. They understand the trauma our community has endured. Most importantly, they meet individuals exactly where they, offering compassion, respect, support, and shared lived experience as a source of strength and hope.

- Law Enforcement - Frequently Asked Questions

What public safety challenges is the Seneca Nation currently facing?

The Nation is experiencing a significant increase in criminal activity, largely driven by drug trafficking. This poses serious and unprecedented threats to the safety and well-being of Seneca people living on our territory. In addition to drug-related offenses, there has been an increase in reported cases of sex trafficking, exploitation of women and children, and domestic violence involving Seneca and non-Senecas.

What factors are contributing to this problem?

Several factors have contributed to the current safety challenges:

- **Geographic Location:** The Seneca Nation's territories are located within a federally identified High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA). Jamestown, NY is ranked the second most impacted area in New York State, after the Bronx.
- **Jurisdictional Limitations:** The Seneca Nation does not currently exercise full criminal jurisdiction. In 1984, Congress granted New York State criminal jurisdiction over Indian lands within the state. As a result, state and county law enforcement agencies are primarily responsible for prosecuting crimes occurring within Nation territories.
- **Enforcement Gaps:** State and county law enforcement response have been insufficient to fully address the scope of the problem. Federal involvement has also been limited due to the jurisdictional structure established in 1948.

These overlapping jurisdictional issues have created enforcement gaps that are known and exploited by criminal organization and drug traffickers.

What actions are the Seneca Nation leadership taking?

The President and Council have implemented several initiatives to strengthen public safety, including:

- Establishing a Public Safety Commission to coordinate Nation law enforcement efforts and develop comprehensive public safety strategies.
- Issuing exclusion orders and council resolutions against known drug traffickers and dangerous criminals who pose a threat to the community.
- Advancing efforts at the federal level to end New York State's criminal jurisdiction over the Seneca Nation.



- Law Enforcement - Frequently Asked Questions

What is U.S. House Bill 7065?

U.S. House Bill 7065, introduced by Representative Nick Langworthy, seeks to end New York State's criminal jurisdiction over crimes committed by Seneca citizens within Nation territories. In 1948, during the federal Termination Era, Congress granted New York State criminal jurisdiction over Indian lands within the State. The Seneca Nation has always opposed this grant of jurisdiction as violating the 1794 Treaty of Canandaigua and the Nation's inherent sovereign authority over its lands.

What is Nation leadership doing about it?

President Seneca and Council are leading the effort to end New York State criminal jurisdiction to prosecute Senecas for crimes occurring within Nation territories. This bill will galvanize the federal government's law enforcement response. If enacted, the law would be effective upon written concurrence by the Seneca Nation and the U.S. Attorney General.

Who Has Liability for the Cattaraugus County Sheriff's Actions?

The CCSO and Cattaraugus County are solely responsible and liable for the acts of their deputies and officers. All insurance coverage will be the responsibility of the CCSO and County.

Is the Nation Involved in anything Related to the Threat of ICE Raids?

No. President Seneca and Councillors have had high-level discussions with senior leadership of the Department of Homeland Security to inform them that Seneca people and Seneca sovereignty must be respected. There is no known direct threat to Seneca people from ICE. However, it is important that all Senecas carry ID cards at all times and immediately notify Seneca Nation officials about any interactions.



PUBLIC SAFETY & COMMUNITY EMERGENCY CONTACT NUMBERS

	Allegany	Cattaraugus
Tip Line	(716) 382-1562	(716) 382-1564
Marshals & Dispatch	(716) 945-2779	(716) 532-8211
Seneca Strong – 24/7 Crisis Hot Line	(716) 945-8413	(716) 532-8456
SNI Behavioral Health Unit Substance Use Services	(716) 945-5894	(716) 532-5583

Drug Tip Lines	
Cattaraugus County	1-800-328-3784
Chautauqua County	(716) 483-8477
Erie County	(716) 858-7755
New York State Police	1-866-SAFENYS

