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December 23, 2016

Contact:

Phil Pantano

Pantano & Associates, L.L.C.

716-601-4128

[phil@pantanoPR.com](mailto:phil@pantanoPR.com)

**Seneca Nation Banishes Six Suspected  
Drug Dealers from Seneca Territory**  
*Drugs, paraphernalia found in vehicle on Cattaraugus Territory*

CATTARAUGUS TERRITORY, IRVING, N.Y. – The Seneca Nation took a strong stance against drug activity on its sovereign territory yesterday, banishing six suspected drug dealers from all Seneca territory. The banishments were passed down following a vote of the Nation Council.

During a vehicle check on the Cattaraugus Territory earlier this week, Seneca Nation Marshals found the individuals in a vehicle carrying a large cache of drugs and drug paraphernalia. The individuals were detained until New York State Police arrived on scene.

“We will protect the Seneca people and the quality of life on our territories through every measure possible and not allow individuals such as these to threaten and poison Seneca Territory,” said Seneca Nation President Todd Gates. “I want to congratulate the Council for taking this bold step. The drug epidemic that is devastating communities across the region must be stopped.”

The individuals are: Jermaine Fann, Kevin L. Hunt, Ellis Meehan, Mikayla A. Miller, Eileen Oliver, and Melquen A. Thompson.

Over the past several years, the Seneca Nation has worked in partnership with the Cattaraugus County Sheriff’s Office and the school districts in Salamanca and Gowanda to combat drug use and abuse.

“The drug dealers who continue to prey on our community, and those who fall victim to their activity, need to hear this message: not on our territory. Seneca Territory will not be a safe haven for you,” said Seneca Nation Treasurer Maurice A. John, Sr. “These

despicable predators cannot be trusted and are not welcome in Seneca Territory. They are not alone. The fight against illegal drugs is a continuous battle. I implore all Seneca people to stay vigilant, stay alert, and to stay strong so that we can keep our home lands safe.”