ELECTION CANDIDATE

STATEMENT OF QUALIFICATION

I, H. Nelson Pinola #527-200, pursuant to Community Council Resolution No. 03033622, hereby provide the following statement as to why I am qualified to hold an elected office with the Manchester Band of Pomo Indians:

I was born and raised on the Point Arena side of the reservation, the Iverson Rancheria, in the home paid for and built by my grandfather Harry Pinola, on the lot assigned to him by the tribe on December 14, 1940. Twelve other heads of family also paid for their homes on lots assigned to them in the original circle in the same manner and action by the tribe. There was no tribal office, and all elected to office held meetings in their homes. Many members are related to me and served as tribal officials, thus exposing many of us to how our tribe was governed, and how it should properly serve our members.

- After graduating from high school, I served the USAF and received an Honorable Discharge.
- Worked at the Sonoma County Community Hospital as a Bio Medical Electronics Tech.
- Attended SRJC and received an AA degree and transferred to Sonoma State University and graduated with a BA degree in Management (Finance).
- Received certification in Human Resources Management from Sonoma State University.
- Recruited to the Sonoma County Sheriff's Office where I retired as a Lieutenant.
- Served as Adjunct Faculty at SRJC, instructing in AJ courses.
- Served as Subject Matter Expert (SME) trainer with the California POST Commission in leadership, management, training and PL-280
- Elected and served as Tribal Chair; elected board member of SCIHP, elected board chair at Ya-Ka-Ama; chair of the CRIHB Epidemiology Committee; and
- Served as chair of the BIA Central California Agency Tribal Government Consultation Committee.
- Served as member of the California Tribal Chairs Association
- Participated in 2012 in establishing the Northern California Intertribal Court System at Hopland, as a court system of limited jurisdiction based on the MPA tribal laws that authorize jurisdiction.
- Participated in the development, monitoring, and auditing of multi-million-dollar budget revenue and expense accounts for our tribal enterprise.
- Developed policy and procedures for all departments, setting, and managing goals and objectives, and monitoring grants and completing required reports from other governmental agencies.
- Negotiated initial financing terms for the casino with multiple lenders, and later renegotiated terms; set up Gaming Commission policies, procedures and training.
- Served as tribal project manager overseeing casino construction and development, and Acting General Manager.
- Enhanced skill sets served in performance of my duties as Tribal Chair, law enforcement manager, tribal administrator with sister tribes, and as HR Analyst with the City of Santa Rosa.

Statement:

I served previously and was re-elected multiple times as chair with our tribe. These were during turbulent times of political instability, rapid expansion of our membership roll, and increases in grant funding opportunities and economic growth. It was also a time when tribal members, including elders, stepped up

and helped guide the tribe toward a more stable and transparent government that worked to benefit all our tribal members.

We are now in a situation unlike anything we have ever seen in the past, where one individual now controls every position, controls all tribal funds, makes their own rules and acts with total disregard for the concerns of the tribal members.

I will work with the new elected tribal officials to ensure the **NO ONE PERSON** ever again gets to act unilaterally to decide who are tribal members; who can suspend someone's membership; who gets to attend tribal meetings; who punishes members for speaking up or who questions a tribal officials actions; who gets to decide what members receive tribal funding or benefits based on if that member supports the tribal leader; who bans tribal members from the casino, who threatens tribal members to be in fear of them or their family members losing their jobs, housing, medical care, or education funds for perceived slights of a tribal leader; or to have private security hired by a tribal leader deny tribal members the right to enter, sign-in, or participate in a Community Council meeting. This must come to a stop.

It is time to come together; to make a change and stop this destruction of our tribal government. Do not waste your vote on those who have never done this before, or those who tell you this is easy to do. It is not. Nor is it time for on-the-job training. You only need to look around at what our inexperienced so-called leaders have done to this tribe in the last 10 years. This job requires an education, and demonstrated training, experience, and hard work in tribal government, a thorough understanding of our history and people who live here. It demands planning, action, and a desire to help advance the welfare of our people rather than viewing it as an opportunity for self-enrichment. It also requires transparency, accountability, and the ability to meet and communicate with all tribal members regarding issues of concern. Even those who might not have supported you, but who may have promising ideas to help the tribe. If elected, I promise to work hard to achieve these most basic goals: to advocate on your behalf, provide clear and concise financial reports, and restore our constitutional rights that are being trampled on by those in positions of authority. Your vote is valuable… choose wisely….

Yelena Hood
Candidate Signature

Date: 10/05/26