



## Navajo Nation Council - Office of the Speaker

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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### **Council Delegate Redhouse announces amendments to the *Regulations and Standards of Conduct for Elected Officials***

*Resolution no longer restricted to Council Delegates*

**WINDOW ROCK, Ariz.** – Navajo Nation Council Delegate Francis Redhouse (Teec Nos Pos), Chair of the Ethics and Rules Committee (E&R), would like to announce that the *Regulations and Standards of Conduct for Elected Officials of the Navajo Nation* has been amended for elected officials of the Navajo Nation.

Redhouse said that this resolution is a good thing, because it is not just concentrated on Council Delegates, as it was before. "We are not isolating just the Navajo Nation Council Delegates, but all officials of the Navajo Nation."

Elected officials include all officials elected or appointed to elective positions pursuant to the Navajo Nation Election Code, 11. N.N.C. §3758, 3780 – 3782.

Elected officials are representatives of the Navajo Nation and are therefore expected to conduct themselves in a manner, which reflects creditably upon the Navajo people and government of the Navajo Nation. This supplemental code is designed to ensure that all elected officials meet the high standards set forth by the resolution.

Lawrence John, Executive Director of the Ethics and Rules Office, stated that the E&R Committee is tasked with insuring that public officials and Navajo Nation employees are held to the highest standard of ethical conduct. The office also insures that officials provide a fair, honest, and efficient government of the Navajo Nation through review, recommendations, legislation, rules, and standards.

The regulations and standards of conduct for elected officials of the Navajo Nation covers issues related to the use of drugs or alcohol, courtesy towards Navajo Nation employees, conflict of interest, disclosure or use of confidential information, undue or improper influence, abuse of official position, violation of trust, unauthorized compensation, and sexual harassment.

The mission of the E&R Committee is to review and recommend rules of

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procedure for the effective and efficient conduct of the Navajo Nation Council and its standing committees. In addition, the committee also recommends legislation that will maintain the highest standards of ethical conduct in the functions of the Navajo Nation government.

On March 13, 1998, the E&R Committee adopted and passed Resolution No. ERC-98-011 during the 18<sup>th</sup> Navajo Nation Council, which limited the regulations and standards of conduct to Council Delegates only. That has since been amended to include all elected officials of the Navajo Nation.

John said that the amended *Standard of Conducts* was successfully maneuvered through all the respective standing committees with favorable consideration. The E&R Committee passed the resolution by a vote of 7-0 on Jan. 4.

The Ethics and Rules Office will be conducting a two-day conference to help Chapters understand the new amendments. The conference is planned for April 29 through May 1 in Albuquerque, N.M.

For more information, contact Lawrence John at the Ethics and Rules Office at 928-871-6369.

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