



## The Navajo Nation Council — Office of the Speaker

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **President Shirley mistakenly attributes Council action to put him on administrative leave to his reform effort**

*Office of the President continues attempt to sway public opinion*

**WINDOW ROCK, Ariz.** – Navajo Nation President Joe Shirley Jr. mistakenly attributes the Navajo Council's actions to put him on administrative leave on Oct. 26 to his government reform effort.

In a three-page press release from the Office of the President, the President said, "he is disappointed in the Navajo Nation Council's action to place him on administrative leave and that he is still waiting to be informed of the specific allegations against him. It appears irrefutable that the action is in retaliation for efforts to seek an initiative election to reduce the council from 88 to 24 delegates, and to allow the president line item veto authority."

The fact of the matter is Council's actions to put the President on administrative leave by a vote of 48-22 has absolutely nothing to do with the two initiatives he and his office are pushing. The three reports involving alleged wrongdoing in business deals, OnSat and BCDS, did not come about overnight. The investigative reports were requested as early as September 2007 and they were scheduled for presentation during the Council's 2009 Fall Session.

As stated in the legislation, the investigations will be forwarded to the Office of the Navajo Attorney General for further review, at which time, the office will determine within a 60-day timeframe to hire a special prosecutor. The Navajo Council acted upon their authority and the investigations are now in the appropriate hands for further review.

Despite the criticism being received from the Office of the President, the tribal government is operating smoothly and there are no disruptions in services. Business will continue as usual. The Council is urging the public to respect the process and allow the investigations to run its full course in a proper fashion.

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