



Navajo Nation Council – Office of the Speaker

Contact: Jerome Clark

Phone: (928) 871-7160

Cell: (928) 637-5603

nnlb.communications@gmail.com

www.navajonationcouncil.org

March 16, 2012

NEWS RELEASE:

Naa'bi'iyati' Committee receives report on Gallup shootings and considers legislations

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. – On March 15 the Naa'bi'iyati' Committee of the 22nd Navajo Nation Council held a meeting at the Navajo Nation Council Chamber at 10:00 a.m. and adjourned at approximately 9:00 p.m.

The Committee received a report from John Billison, Director of Department of Public Safety, and also considered twelve legislations.

Billison provided a brief summary of the shootings and attempted robberies that occurred in and around Gallup, NM on March 12.

Council Delegate Joshua Lavar Butler requested the report be added to the agenda because of the proximity of the events to Navajo communities and so that delegates could also relay information on to community members in their chapters.

Concerns expressed by Council Delegates to Billison included the need to ensure the safety of casino patrons, the need to develop an information sharing network so that communities receive timely and accurate information, and the need to address violence and safety in Navajo communities.

The Committee approved legislations for the following nominees to the Navajo Government Development Commission: Andrew Curley for Health, Education, and Human Services Committee and put forth by the Health, Education, and Human Services Committee (legislation 0014-12); Martha Davis for Diné College as put forth by the President of Diné College (legislation 0040-12); and Richie Nez as the Fort Defiance Agency Council Representative as put forth by the Fort Defiance Agency Council (legislation 0041-12).

The Committee also approved legislation 0073-12, which would confirm the appointment of Larry Curley as the Division Director of the Navajo Nation Division of Health.

The above confirmation legislations are subject to approval by the Navajo Nation Council.

Legislation 0044-12, sponsored by Honorable Jonathan Hale and Honorable Danny Simpson, passed with sixteen (16) supporting and zero (0) opposing. The legislation would approve the Navajo Nation position statement requesting forward funding of the Bureau of Indian Affairs higher education scholarship program.

According to the US Government Accountability Office, forward funding is defined as a “budget authority that is made available for obligation beginning in the last quarter of the fiscal year for the financing of ongoing activities during the next fiscal year. This funding is used mostly for education programs, so that obligations for grants can be made prior to the beginning of the next school year.”

The legislation was a response to a directive previously given by the Committee to ensure scholarship funding issues that occurred earlier this year does not happen again.

Legislation 0456-11, sponsored by Honorable Leonard Pete, Honorable Lorenzo Curley, and Honorable Jonathan Hale, passed with twenty (20) supporting and zero (0) opposing. This legislation approves the submittal of assistance amendment application BG-97923811-1 for \$2,267,828 to the US Environmental Protection Agency and accepts the Federal grant award with a Navajo Nation match of \$119,360 for a total of \$2,388,188.

Naa’bik’iyati’ Committee is the final authority on the both legislation 0044-12 and legislation 0456-11.

Legislations dealing with supplemental funding from the Unreserved Undesignated Fund Balance (UUFb) that appeared on the approved agenda were not considered, except legislation 0030-12 and legislation 0031-12, and will be discussed at a later date during a Council Work Session.

Legislation 0030-12, sponsored by Honorable LoRenzo Bates, was passed by Naa’bik’iyati’ with fifteen (15) supporting and three (3) opposing. The legislation, pending approval by Navajo Nation Council, would approve supplemental funding from the UUFb in the amount of \$864,174 to provide direct service to local chapters and communities.

An amendment was made to legislation 0030-12, motioned by Honorable Danny Simpson, to increase the amount in the legislation from \$864,174 to \$2,864,174.

The following were also considered during the Naa’bik’iyati Committee meeting: legislation 0030-12, legislation 0031-12 (tabled), legislation 0089-12, legislation 0093-12, legislation 0073-12, legislation 0094-12, and legislation 0051-12. For more information about these legislations, please feel free to contact us at the number or email above.

###