



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**Law and Order Committee approves the FY 2013-14
Judicial/Public Safety Facilities Construction Priority Listing**

WINDOW ROCK – On Monday, the Law and Order Committee approved Legislation No. 0187-13, the final Judicial/Public Safety Construction Priority listing for fiscal years 2013 and 2014.

Throughout the discussion, LOC members made it clear that sites that are ready to begin construction should be made a priority, including legislation sponsor and LOC vice chair Council Delegate Alton Joe Shepherd (Jeddito, Cornfields, Ganado, Kin Dah Lichíí, Steamboat).

“The final priority listing will be up to the committee, but we recommend that it is structured to reflect construction-ready areas at the top of the list,” said Delegate Shepherd.

Currently, Tuba City and Crownpoint have each constructed a judicial/public safety complex under the Judicial/Public Safety Facilities Fund Management Plan which requires the priority listing to be updated every two years.

Construction is funded through a 1 percent sales tax established in 2007, specifically intended to generate funds for the construction of judicial/public safety facilities on the Navajo Nation.

“Areas that are construction-ready should be funded quickly, such as Chinle, who has completed 100 percent of their assessments, clearances, schematics, and planning design. Right now they are only waiting for funding to begin construction,” said Navajo Nation Judicial Administration director Edward Martin.

Martin also noted that Kayenta is the only site that has begun construction on its corrections and law enforcement buildings, and is seeking funding to begin construction of a new court building.

Speaking in support of the legislation, LOC member Council Delegate Elmer Begay (Dilkon, Greasewood Springs, Indian Wells, Teesto, Whitecone) said, “Dilkon began as a police substation, but it is now growing into a full-fledged judicial/public safety entity. I am very pleased with that, and it will be the same for other areas on the Navajo Nation.”

In a previous report given to the LOC by Navajo Nation Department of Corrections director Delores Greyeyes, she stated that Chinle, Pinon, Dilkon, Kayenta, and Shiprock are construction-ready areas and suggested they be at the top of the priority listing.

Delegate Shepherd also reminded his LOC colleagues that they have the authority to amend the priority listing as they see fit and motioned to amend the priority listing to reflect the suggestions made by Greyeyes.

LOC members voted 3-0 in support of the amended list which consists of Chinle, Dilkon, Pinon, Kayenta, Shiprock, Fort Defiance, Ramah, Aneth, Alamo, and Pueblo Pintado.

Also in attendance was Council Delegate Jonathan Hale (Oak Springs, St. Michaels), who commended LOC members for their efforts to establish more judicial/public safety complexes.

“We are a growing nation of over 300,000 people and we need to get these facilities built as soon as possible to avoid the overflow in our corrections, jail, and court systems,” said Delegate Hale.

At the conclusion of the discussion, LOC members voted 3-0 to approve Legislation No. 0187-13.

The Law and Order Committee serves as the final authority for the legislation.

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