



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
April 24, 2014

**MEDIA CONTACTS**  
Jared Touchin | 928.221.9253  
Jolene Holgate | 928.380.4174  
Chrissy Largo | 928.637.5603  
nmlb.communications@gmail.com

## **Navajo Nation Council appoints Levon Henry as Chief Legislative Counsel and approves the Navajo Housing Authority Reform Act of 2014**

**WINDOW ROCK** – On the final day of the spring session, the Navajo Nation Council took action on several key legislations including appointing Levon B. Henry to serve in the role of Chief Legislative Counsel, and approving the Navajo Housing Authority Reform Act of 2014.

With a vote of 18-2, Council members approved Legislation No. 0062-14 co-sponsored by Council Delegate Roscoe Smith (Crystal, Fort Defiance, Red Lake, Sawmill), following an hour-long discussion on Wednesday afternoon.

“In accepting this appointment, I realize there is a great deal of work to be done and I know that the Council members are expecting quite a bit from the Office of Legislative Counsel,” stated Henry. “I’d like to ensure you [that my intent] —if this appointment is approved— is to offer professional services to each of you.”

Henry previously served for 10 years as the executive director for DNA-People’s Legal Services in Window Rock. His legal career spans 26 years, in which he also served as a Navajo Tribal Court Advocate, president of the Navajo Nation Bar Association, and as the Attorney General of the Navajo Nation.

In his new role, Henry will be responsible for providing legal advice and representation to the Council, its standing committees, and programs under the legislative branch.

Additionally, Henry will administer and manage the Office of Legislative Counsel which is currently staffed with five attorneys, including acting Chief Legislative Counsel Marianna Kahn.

On Wednesday, Council also approved Legislation No. 0075-14 with a vote of 17-1.

If signed into law by Navajo Nation President Ben Shelly, the resolution will amend Title 6 of the Navajo Nation Code to allow the Government Services Committee to be replaced by the Naabik’iyáti’ Committee as sole appointing authority to appoint NHA Commissioners of the Board.

Legislation sponsor Delegate Smith, has previously explained that when the Council membership was reduced from 88 to 24 members, the standing committees also changed. However, language in Title 6 has not been amended to reflect the changes made to the Council’s standing committees.

Another proposed change would eliminate language in Title 6, which requires Commissioners of the Board to take an oath of office prior to assuming duties.

President Ben Shelly will have ten calendar days to consider the resolution once it is sent to the Office of the President and Vice President.

###

For news on the latest legislative branch activities, please visit [www.navajonationcouncil.org](http://www.navajonationcouncil.org)