



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
May 14, 2014

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

## **Delegate Lorenzo Curley and Nahata Dziil community members speak out against renewal of liquor licenses in border town of Sanders**



**Photo: KPNX news crew films as Council Delegate Lorenzo Curley addresses Nahata Dziil community members and Apache County Supervisor Barry Weller (District 3) at the Nahata Dziil Chapter House.**

**SANDERS, Ariz.** – On Wednesday, Council Delegate Lorenzo Curley (Houck, Klagetoh, Nahata Dziil, Tsé Si áni, Wide Ruins) and members of the Nahata Dziil Renewal of Hope Task Force spoke out against the possible renewal of four liquor licenses owned by Gary MacDonald.

MacDonald owns three liquor establishments, and is currently jailed and facing numerous felony charges, resulting from two search warrants served in September 2013. During the search, police seized 20 firearms and large amounts of a substance believed to be methamphetamine in the home of MacDonald.

Ole Red Barn, High Country Liquor, and Lee’s Liquor are the three establishments owned by MacDonald, and are located a few miles of one another — two of which, within walking distance for many Navajo people residing on the Navajo Nation.

Media from 12 News KPNX-Phoenix conducted on-camera interviews with Delegate Curley and community members, who shared firsthand stories of family, friends, and loved ones who have been harmed and lost their lives.

Delegate Curley hopes the media attention draws critical awareness throughout the state to the heavy hand that the establishments have had in the “destruction” and “victimization” of Navajo people — contributing to the disproportionately high numbers of deaths, accidents, rapes, and violent crimes in Sanders and surrounding Navajo communities for years.

“As victims of these establishments, our Navajo citizens have a right to speak out against the renewal of these liquor licenses that have led to destructive and tragic circumstances for their families and loved ones,” stated Delegate Curley following the interview.

Delegate Curley also stated that community members are concerned about the possibility that Gary MacDonald used revenue from his liquor establishments to fund the alleged illegal activities.

“That is a serious issue that should not be tolerated,” added Delegate Curley.

In March, the Navajo Nation Council’s Naabik’iyáti’ Committee unanimously passed Resolution NABIMA-19-14, urging the Apache County Board of Supervisors, the Arizona Department of Liquor Licenses and Control, the Arizona State Liquor Board, and any other appropriate agencies to reject the renewal of the liquor licenses owned by MacDonald.

The renewal of MacDonald’s four liquor licenses will be addressed by the Arizona Department of Liquor Licenses and Control on May 30.

Since the creation of the Nahata Dził Renewal of Hope Task Force in October 2013, chairperson Char James along with other task force members have worked with Delegate Curley, the Navajo Nation Human Rights Commission, Apache County officials, and other local leaders to prevent the renewal of the liquor licenses.

During the media interviews, task force member Antoinette Antoine shared personal stories of the tragedies experienced by her and her loved ones, including the death of her mother who was found deceased near the Ole Red Barn 14 years ago. She also recalled situations in which her mother was sold alcohol despite being heavily intoxicated at the time.

“When she was really intoxicated they would serve her,” said Antoine. “I’d go behind Red Barn to go looking for her and there [were] people that were drinking and just sitting there. How can you sell liquor to [intoxicated] people?”

James said similar stories are common among many local community members while noting that the Renewal of Hope Task Force is scheduled to meet on May 22, beginning at 10 a.m. at the Nahata Dził Chapter House to further address the liquor licenses.

The story is scheduled to air on Thursday, May 15 on KPNX-Channel 12 News during its evening newscast, which is available statewide.

###

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