



23RD NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER

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Law and Order Committee supports increased salary schedule for Navajo police officers

FARMINGTON, N.M. – On Friday, the Law and Order Committee held a special meeting and approved Legislation No. 0330-16, which seeks to amend the Navajo Nation fiscal year 2017 budget instructions manual and salary schedule to address the proposed salary increases for the Navajo Nation Division of Public Safety.

On Sept. 19, LOC chair Council Delegate Edmund Yazzie (Churchrock, Iyanbito, Mariano Lake, Pinedale, Smith Lake, Thoreau) recommended NNDPS to provide correct salary adjustment numbers that would be needed for the legislation, which the LOC members sponsored.

According to the legislation, NNDPS will have a specific salary schedule within the 2017 budget instructions manual, which will allow NNDPS to utilize 638 Contract funding from the Bureau of Indian Affairs for salary increases for law enforcement officers.

Navajo Nation Police Department chief of police Phillip B. Francisco asked if the legislation would allow a retroactive pay because the committee directed for pay raises since Aug. 20 and the pay raises has not been implemented.

LOC member Council Delegate Herman Daniels, Jr. (Shonto, Naa'tsis'Áán, Oljato, Ts'ah Bii Kin) proposed an amendment to allow retroactive pay for the law enforcement officers since Aug. 20.

“Navajo police officers deserve a pay raise and they deserve the back pay because they work long hours and sacrifice their lives everyday to keep our communities safe,” stated Delegate Daniels.

LOC member Council Delegate Kee Allen Begay, Jr. (Low Mountain, Many Farms, Nazlini, Tachee/Blue Gap, Tselani/Cottonwood) stated that the next step for the initiative would be to revisit BIA and address federal funding increase.

“The next step is to have another meeting with BIA to address more funding because the pay increases will be a recurring cost. The pay increase will cost 3.9 million a year and we need to present this to BIA and so the 638 Contract funding can sustain the recurring cost,” stated Delegate Begay.

“I want to thank the committee for working hard on this initiative. The committee has accomplished a priority for NNDPS. We will continue to support our public safety. This is a start and we still have a lot to do,” added Delegate Yazzie.

The Law and Order Committee approved Legislation No. 0330-16 with one amendment for retroactive pay. The legislation will be considered next by the Health, Education, and Human Services Committee and the Budget and Finance Committee.

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