



## 23RD NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER

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### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Law and Order Committee approves reimbursement for Ramah Chapter for waterline extension construction costs**

**WINDOW ROCK** – On Monday, the Law and Order Committee approved Legislation No. 0071-17, which amends a previous resolution, LOCJA-01-16, and provides a reimbursement in the amount of \$69,586 to Ramah Chapter for construction costs for an offsite waterline extension for the Ramah Navajo Detention Center. The Ramah facility opened in November, which is located approximately 42-miles south of Gallup, N.M.

In 2016, LOC members sponsored and approved LOCJA-01-16, which reallocated approximately \$354,000 from the Navajo Nation’s Judicial Public Safety Facilities Fund to complete the construction of the Ramah facility to help offset a funding shortfall for the project.

LOC chair Council Delegate Edmund Yazzie (Churchrock, Iyanbito, Mariano Lake, Pinedale, Smith Lake, Thoreau), who sponsored the legislation, asked for his colleagues support to help the Ramah Chapter.

“Due to the delay in the appropriation of funds from the Judicial Public Safety Facilities Fund, Ramah Chapter paid for the offsite waterline extension to the Ramah Navajo Detention Center from chapter funds. The amendment to LOCJA-01-16 will allow reimbursement to the chapter,” stated Delegate Yazzie.

According to a letter dated Oct. 2016 from Navajo Nation Department of Corrections manager Delores Greyeyes, Ramah Chapter decided to pay for the construction expenses to meet the deadline set by the U.S. Department of Justice Office of Justice Program to complete the project in accordance with guidelines in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

LOC member Council Delegate Kee Allen Begay, Jr. (Low Mountain, Many Farms, Nazlini, Tachee/Blue Gap, Tselani/Cottonwood) recommended that Ramah Chapter deliver an update report on the project.

“There were several issues that were brought forth by Ramah Navajo Utility Authority regarding construction payments. We want to keep everyone accountable with all projects, therefore, I recommend the chapter to give the committee an updated report regarding all construction costs and balances,” said Delegate Begay.

The Law and Order Committee approved Legislation No. 0071-17 with a 4-0 vote and serves as the final authority for the bill. The Ramah Chapter will provide a report during the next committee meeting.

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