



23RD NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 5, 2018

MEDIA CONTACTS

Jared Touchin (928) 221-9253
Jolene Holgate (928) 380-4174
Crystalyne Curley (928) 286-7918
nnlb.communications@gmail.com

Delegate Kee Allen Begay, Jr. continues to advocate for the construction of the Dził Yijiin Judicial District facility



PHOTO: (left to right) Council Delegate Kee Allen Begay, Jr., Chinle Police District lieutenant Yazzie, Pinon Chapter officials, and BIA OJS deputy bureau director Charles Addington in Pinon, Ariz. on April 5, 2018.

PINON, Ariz. – On Thursday, Council Delegate Kee Allen Begay, Jr. (Low Mountain, Many Farms, Nazlini, Tachee/Blue Gap, Tselani/Cottonwood) welcomed Bureau of Indian Affairs Office of Justice Services deputy bureau director Charles Addington to the community of Pinon, to discuss federal funding to construct the Dził Yijiin Judicial District facility. The visit also included a tour of the proposed sites for a police substation in Blue Gap, Ariz. and the Navajo Nation police academy in Chinle.

The proposed Dził Yijiin Judicial District facility would be located near the community's shopping center and consist of a district court, police substation, and fire and rescue services.

During the site visit, Delegate Begay emphasized the tremendous need for judicial and public safety services and resources for rural communities, such as Pinon, which is located approximately 45-miles west of Chinle

“The community of Pinon is one of most rural communities in the Navajo Nation. Navajo citizens have to travel far to receive public safety and judicial services. The community and myself seek the Office of Justice Services’ assistance and guidance to secure funding to construct the facility, which would assist many people, families, and surrounding communities,” said Delegate Begay.

According to Pinon Chapter president Bessie Allen, the Dził Yijiin Judicial District is currently housed in the chapter house. The chapter has withdrawn land for a modular building, which was purchased to temporarily house the judicial district staff.

In March 2017, the Law and Order Committee approved Legislation No. 0099-17, a modification for supplemental funds in the amount of \$340,000 within the Judicial Branch’s budget to purchase a modular building for the Dził Yijiin Judicial District.

Delegate Begay said the purchase of the modular building serves as a temporary facility until the proposed judicial building is constructed. He added that sustainable judicial and public safety facilities are needed to deliver quality services and resources.

Following the visit in Pinon, Delegate Begay also showed Addington the proposed site of the Blue Gap police substation at the junction of Navajo Route 4 and 29, which is a community driven project. The Blue Gap Chapter implemented the building and infrastructure planning, however, the operation costs for the substation requires funding, added Delegate Begay.

Addington thanked Delegate Begay for providing an in-depth tour and discussion of the judicial and public safety needs within the Dził Yijiin region and stated that he would consider and recommend federal funding and create successful partnerships for the proposed projects.

The visit also consisted of a meeting with Navajo Nation Division of Public Safety director Jesse Delmar, Navajo Nation chief of police Phillip B. Francisco, and Navajo Nation Department of Criminal Investigations director Dale West, regarding funding opportunities for public safety employee housing.

###

For news on the latest legislative branch activities, please visit www.navajonationcouncil.org or find us on Facebook and Twitter, keywords: Navajo Nation Council