



23RD NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER

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Law and Order Committee urges the Navajo Nation Division of Public Safety to implement corrective action plan

WINDOW ROCK – On Monday, the Law and Order Committee considered Legislation No. 0143-18, accepting the follow-up review of the Navajo Nation Division of Public Safety P-card purchases corrective action plan implementation and imposing sanctions for not implementing the corrective action plan.

In Dec. 2014, the Budget and Finance Committee approved the audit report and corrective action plan. In April 2018, the Office of the Auditor General conducted a follow-up review to determine if the correction action plan had been implemented. It was later determined that none of the corrective measures were implemented.

Council Delegate Seth Damon (Bááháálí, Chichiltah, Manuelito, Tsé Lichíí', Rock Springs, Tsayatoh), who sponsored the legislation, asked for the committee's support to sanction the Division of Public Safety for failing to implement their corrective action plan.

"According to the audit report, operating charges were inconsistency with procurement rules and regulations and travel charges were contrary to travel policies and procedures. They were given many months to fix the audit issues, but none of them were addressed," said Delegate Damon.

He added, "The Division of Public Safety had approximately 191 p-card holders during their audit period, but there was no evidence that cardholders received p-card policy training, therefore, sanction is highly recommended."

According to the legislation, if approved, 10-percent of monies payable from any government fund of the Navajo Nation and 20-percent of the division director's salary would be withheld until division demonstrates implementation of the corrective action plan.

"This issue goes back to the program managers. Every program should have an employee who is familiar with p-card policies and keep employees accountable. If an employee fails to comply with p-card policies, disciplinary actions needs to be considered. Why was this issue never fixed by the administration?" asked LOC member Council Delegate Otto Tso (Tó Nanees Dizi).

According to the NNDPS director Jesse Delmar, he was unaware of the correction action plan and no trainings were provided to the p-cardholders.

LOC member Council Delegate Kee Allen Begay, Jr. (Low Mountain, Many Farms, Nazlini, Tachee/Blue Gap, Tselani/Cottonwood) recommended that the committee assist the Division of Public Safety with implementing the corrective action plan and have them address the audit findings as soon as possible to avoid sanction.

The Law and Order Committee approved Legislation No. 0143-18 with a 2-1 vote with a directive for the Navajo Nation Division of Public Safety to implement the corrective action plan within five days. The Budget and Finance Committee serves as the final authority for the bill.

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