



## 23RD NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Law and Order Committee encourages the Navajo public to apply for vacant police officer positions**

**WINDOW ROCK** – On Monday, the Law and Order Committee received a report from the Navajo Nation Police Department chief of police Phillip B. Francisco regarding the initiative to recruit law enforcement officers throughout the Navajo Nation.

LOC chair Council Delegate Edmund Yazzie (Churchrock, Iyanbito, Mariano Lake, Pinedale, Smith Lake, Thoreau) stated that the NNPD is in critical need of police officers and encouraged community members to apply for the vacant positions.

“The committee and Chief Francisco have been working diligently for over a year to increase the number of police officers at each of the police districts. The shortage of police officers on the Nation has made it a challenge to provide adequate public safety services for communities. I highly encourage our young, determined, and strong Navajo citizens to apply and to become a part of a team of integrity and honor,” said Delegate Yazzie.

Delegate Yazzie added that the committee has taken several steps to address police retention such as salary increases to recruit and retain police officers, as well as offering an academy that would be held on the Navajo Nation.

During the discussion, LOC member Council Delegate Kee Allen Begay, Jr. (Low Mountain, Many Farms, Nazlini, Tachee/Blue Gap, Tselani/Cottonwood) said that the committee would continue to support and seek out additional opportunities for Navajo Nation law enforcement.

“There have been many policy and funding barriers in recruiting and retaining police officers on the Nation for many years. I highly encourage we revisit the 638 Contracts with the federal government and make changes that reflects all the public safety needs. Great plans are being made for the Navajo Nation Division of Public Safety, however we need to secure the funding,” said Delegate Begay, “We need the best resources and benefits for our police officers.”

Chief Francisco added that the NNPD would be recruiting for potential police officer candidates and certified police officers at Chinle Police Department on the following dates:

- September 26, 2018 at 9:00 a.m.
- October 10 and 24, 2018 at 9:00 a.m.
- November 7 and 21, 2018 at 9:00 a.m.
- December 5 and 19, 2018 at 9:00 a.m.
- January 16 and 30, 2018 at 9:00 a.m.
- February 13 and 27, 2018 at 9:00 a.m.

All police officer candidates must be United States Citizens, be 21-years of age prior to graduating from the academy, a high school graduate or G.E.D. certificate recipient, and honorably discharged from the United States armed forces, if they served. The candidate must have no misdemeanor arrests or convictions within three years, felony convictions, excessive traffic citations, domestic violence conviction, and must be physically and mentally healthy.

For more information, please contact the Recruiting Office – Navajo Police Training Academy at (928) 674-2534.

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