



The 22nd Navajo Nation Council — Office of the Speaker

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Navajo Nation Signs MOU with Bloomfield, NM

Community is fourth border town to sign agreement

Bloomfield, NM – On Monday, Navajo Nation Council Speaker Johnny Naize with Human Rights Commission Executive Director Leonard Gorman and Commission Chair Duane “Chili” Yazzie, joined City of Bloomfield, New Mexico leaders to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) which intends to strengthen the communication effort on race related issues between the two governments.

“This is very important for the Navajo Nation. I believe it’s also very important for the city of Bloomfield,” said Naize. “Our two communities rely on each other in many ways and this agreement will strengthen communication which will only continue the dialog we’ve already established.”

City of Bloomfield Mayor, Scott Eckstein, along with city’s council, welcomed the Navajo Nation delegation and talked about the importance his city values the agreement. He noted that he was pleased to enter this agreement with the Navajo Nation.

Curtis Curley, the recently retired City Attorney who started talks with the Commission last year, was impressed of the willingness the two parties worked together in crafting a solid document.

“This is how you develop relationships,” stated Curley.

The leaders also noted the contributions Bloomfield Councilwoman Lynne Raner made to the agreement.

Bloomfield is the fourth New Mexico border town to sign an agreement with the Navajo Nation. In 2010, Grants, Gallup and Farmington signed similar pacts while Cortez, Colorado signed their agreement in May of this year. The Commission is now in negotiations with the city of Flagstaff, Arizona.

“The city of Flagstaff and the Navajo Nation hasn’t always had the best communication, especially when discussing use issues involving the San Francisco Peaks,” said Naize. While establishing an MOU may not immediately resolve that topic, it may help in building a relationship that could improve other opportunities for both our citizens.”

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