



NNC Delegate Edmund Yazzie Seeks Cross-Commission Agreements with County Law Enforcement

Agreements would enhance policing throughout the Navajo Nation

Window Rock, AZ – Navajo Nation Council Delegate and Law and Order Committee Chairperson Edmund Yazzie (Churchrock, Iyanbito, Mariano Lake, Pinedale, Smith Lake, Thoreau) has called on sheriffs in the counties that serve the Navajo Nation to create Cross-Commission Agreements to enhance law enforcement coverage.

“The Law and Order Committee has scheduled a work session to be held on July 14,” said Delegate and Committee Chair Yazzie. “We are inviting all the county sheriffs to meet with us to consider create agreements so that our public safety personnel can work together in protecting our people and their communities.”

Similar to a current agreement made with McKinley County in 2007, the proposed agreements would allow all cross-commissioned officers to enforce and arrest those, both native and non-native, who are in violation of Navajo Nation and local and state criminal and traffic laws.

Before that agreement Navajo Nation Police officers were not able to make arrests off the Navajo Nation and their counterparts with McKinley County could not enforce laws on the reservation. It was a situation that Chairperson Yazzie encountered during his 15 years as a police officer.

“Agreements with our neighboring law enforcement colleagues will help prevent criminals in the Navajo Nation or surrounding counties from trying to flee from one jurisdictions to another while knowing that law enforcement officers cannot cross borders,” said Yazzie. Agreements can also foster a better understanding between our communities in our efforts to keep them safe.

Chairperson Yazzie, with his committee, hopes to begin steps to crafting agreements with Apache, Navajo, and Coconino Counties in Arizona, San Juan County in New Mexico and San Juan County in Utah.

Serving the 27,000 square-mile Navajo Nation, the Navajo Police Department has 365 commissioned officers that respond to an average of over 289,000 calls for services with approximately 39,000 arrests each year.