



THE NAVAJO NATION
DIVISION OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

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Division of Economic Development Executive Director JT Willie Receives Final Confirmation at Navajo Nation Council

The Navajo Nation Division of Economic Development Executive Director JT Willie today went before the Navajo Nation Council for final confirmation after his appointment by President Jonathan Nez and Vice President Myron Lizer in January.

The council voted 22 in favor and none opposed to confirm JT Willie to the position of Executive Director following nearly three hours of floor discussion and responses.

Director Willie has been overseeing the internal evaluation process of the division since his appointment. Prior to his confirmation, both the Resources and Development Committee and President Nez expressed concerns with the division's Business Site Leasing process and the responsiveness of the Regional Business Development Offices. Director Willie shared with the council that restructuring the division's departments and plans of operation are priorities as transitions in energy, transparency, and federal programs take place.



PHOTO: Executive Director JT Willie addressing the Navajo Nation Council with sponsor Honorable Delegate Edmund Yazzie and agent Vice President Myron Lizer. Willie was confirmed by council 22 in favor, 0 opposed.

This is the final approval for Director Willie required by the Navajo Code. Following their appointment by the President of the Navajo Nation, division directors must first be approved by their respective Navajo Nation Council oversight committees, then the Naabik'iiyati' Committee, and then finally by the full council. The Resources and Development Committee, which is the legislative oversight of the Division of Economic Development, voted to confirm Director Willie in March.

The concerns presented by council members were each addressed through either verbal response or were granted a follow-up from Director Willie in written e-mail form.

Director Willie is from Bahast'ah, NM and is Tábaahá born for Táchííní. His mother is Thomasina Willie and his father is Jimmy Willie. JT is a graduate of Window Rock High School, class of 2003 and the University of New Mexico, where he earned a Master of Public Administration degree in 2015.

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