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President Shelly Signs Cross Commissioning Agreement with Navajo County



WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. - Navajo Nation President Ben Shelly signed a cross commissioning agreement with Navajo County Wednesday afternoon during a signing ceremony.

“With this agreement, we are going to provide safer communities for our people who live in Navajo County. I want to thank everyone who worked on this document to make our communities safer for our children,” President Shelly said before the ceremony.

The cross commissioning agreement allows the Navajo County Sheriff’s Office to respond emergency calls on the Navajo Nation, and enforce Navajo Nation laws. In addition, the Navajo Nation police can respond to emergencies off the Navajo Nation that are in Navajo County.

“Our law enforcement personnel work long hours and the travel hundreds of miles on any given day, which creates longer response times in some cases. And before, our resident’s couldn’t call on the Sheriff’s Office because we lacked a cross commissioning agreement. Now that has changed, and we can offer our help to Navajo County as well,” President Shelly said.

The agreement outlines protocols for enforcing Navajo and County laws. For example, if a sheriff’s deputy arrests a Navajo on the Navajo Nation, the person has to be transported to a Navajo facility and a Navajo police report has to be filed. Similarly, a Navajo officer arresting a non-Indian would have to transport the person to a county facility and file a county arrest report.

“We have to make it work for all our people,” President Shelly said.

Council Delegates Jonathan Nez, Elmer Begay and Dwight Witherspoon, who all represent Navajo communities in Navajo County, attended the signing ceremony. Navajo County Sherriff K.C. Clark and Navajo County Attorney Brad Carlyon represented Navajo County at the ceremony.

“President Shelly, you have my commitment that we will do all we can for the Navajo people,” Sheriff Clark said.

The agreement expires in two years.

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