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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## President Begaye encourages public safety after Tuba City bank robbery



President Russell Begaye encouraged the public to stay safe and report any sightings of the suspected bank robber to the Navajo Police or FBI. (Photo by Rick Abasta)

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz.—A male suspect is on the loose after robbing the Tuba City Wells Fargo Bank earlier this afternoon.

Navajo Nation President Russell Begaye said, “When there’s a robbery that occurs on the Navajo Nation, our number one concern is public safety. We must protect innocent bystanders and ensure they call law enforcement and let them handle the situation.”

He encouraged anyone who sees the suspect to please call the police department and report the location.

“The police are trained and know how to handle dangerous criminals. You can assist the law enforcement by being

aware of your surroundings and by reporting any crimes,” President Begaye said.

Navajo Police Officer Roland Dash reported the bank robbery to Navajo Police headquarters in Window Rock.

The Tuba City Wells Fargo Bank reported the robbery at 1:42 p.m., Dash said. The responding officer was Patrick Hall, who confirmed the robbery and asked for backup, including criminal investigators and the FBI.

Video cameras in the bank captured photo surveillance of the suspect.

The description of the suspect is a Native American male, 5 feet 11 inches to 6 feet tall, heavy set with long

shoulder length hair. He was wearing a blue colored straw hat, dark sunglasses, blue jeans and a blue windbreaker.

Criminal investigators from the Navajo Police remained on the scene to conduct the investigation. The bank was shut down as the investigation took place. Local offices, such as the NTUA Tuba City District Office, also went on lockdown to protect the public and employees.

“The suspect didn’t show a weapon, he just passed a note to the teller,” Dash said. “He received the money and walked out of the bank.”

The FBI Flagstaff Regional Office has jurisdiction in the case. All media inquiries are to

be directed to the FBI Flagstaff office.

“Please remember to look out for each other. Take care of each other. We’re a nation based on *Hozho’* and *Ke’*,” President Begaye said.

Vice President Jonathan Nez said, “We condemn this act of violence on our nation and give our full support to law enforcement who will bring this man to justice.”

If the public has any information on the case, they are encouraged to call Navajo Police at 928-283-3111 or the FBI Flagstaff Regional Office at 928-774-0631.