



NAVAJO NATION HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

P.O. Box 1689

Window Rock, Navajo Nation (AZ) 86515

Phone: (928)871-7436 Fax: (928)871-7437

January 12, 2009

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Navajo Nation Human Rights Commission to hold Public Hearings in Northern Navajo Nation Border- towns

St. Michaels, Ariz. – Have you ever felt discriminated against?

Community members are invited to comment on the subject of race relations as it exists in or around the Navajo Nation during a series of public hearings hosted by the Navajo Nation Human Rights Commission (NNHRC) in Page and Lechee, Ariz. and Bluff and Blanding, Utah on January 19th and 20th, 2009.

The Commission is seeking testimony from community members about race relations and its impact on the community with recommendations for addressing these issues. Individuals will be given an opportunity to submit written evidence and/or provide an oral testimony in a supportive environment. Areas of discussion may include but are not limited to racial discrimination as it pertains to employment, housing, the justice system, resources and services.

The NNHRC has authority to hold public hearings pursuant to 2 N.N.C § 922 (C) and (D). The Commission will compile and analyze data taken from the public hearings and issue reports which will be made available to the public to promote a positive relationship between governments and peoples.

The purpose of the Commission is to address discriminatory actions against citizens of the Navajo Nation through public hearings, to assist in

investigations and is to be the primary advocate for the recognition of Navajo human rights at the local, state, national and international levels.

The NNHRC is directed by five commissioners appointed by the Navajo Nation Council who represent diverse professional vocations from the Education, Business, Social Services and Law Enforcement sectors with one at-large member.

The Commissioners are Dr. Rena Yazzie of Shiprock, N.M., Clarence Chee of Chambers, Ariz., Duane H. Yazzie of Shiprock, N.M., Steve Darden of Flagstaff, Ariz. and Irving Gleason of Newcomb, N.M.

The following is a schedule of the NNHRC's upcoming public hearings:

Monday, January 19, 2009	9 a.m. to 4 p.m.	LeChee Chapter LeChee, Arizona
Monday, January 19, 2009	4 p.m. to 8 p.m.	Quality Inn Page, Arizona
Tuesday, January 20, 2009	8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.	Bluff Comm. Center Bluff, Utah
Tuesday, January 20, 2009	1 p.m. to 4 p.m.	College of E. Utah Blanding, Utah

For more information, contact Navajo Nation Human Rights Commission Public Information Officer Sheree Peshlakai at (928)871-7436.

#