



## **NAVAJO NATION HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION**

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### **Historic Navajo Nation and City Government Signing to Address Human Rights**

ST. MICHAELS, Ariz.—Navajo Nation officials met with City of Grants officials in a formal signing of a joint human rights government to government initiative on May 19, 2010 at City Hall in Grants, N.M.

The Navajo Nation Human Rights Commission submitted a Memorandum of Agreement to the City of Grants to engage the city to address the human rights issue nearly a year ago.

Navajo Nation Human Rights Commission Chair Duane H. Yazzie, Navajo Nation Speaker Lawrence T. Morgan, City of Grants Mayor Joe Murrietta and U.S. Department of Justice Consolation Specialist Grace Sage Musser, Ph.D., signed the MOA.

“You are paving the way,” said Yazzie to Mayor Murrietta about the historical signing.

Grants will be the first city to address human rights of Navajo people outside the reservation by Navajo officials and the City of Grants.

Morgan said the Navajo Nation Intergovernmental Committee passed the MOA to enhance the relationship and hopes the MOA will be function like a treaty.

“Hopefully our treaty will be better than in the past,” said Murrietta. He also said that the MOA was the appropriate document to address human rights issues.

To follow up, Yazzie said, “We want the MOA to be a living document,” one that won’t be shelved.

**Now What?**

-More-

NNHRC encourages ingenious creative assessments to help improve race relations.

For example, while working with the city officials, City of Grants Mayor Joe Murrietta made a recommendation to hold an annual summit of mayors on the Navajo Nation.

It is important to remain diligent stated Yazzie.

“Today’s signing is a very good start in addressing human rights issues in the Grants community,” NNHRC Executive Director Leonard Gorman said.

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