



25th Navajo Nation Council

25TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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25th Navajo Nation Council welcomed the State of the Navajo Nation Address from President Nygren

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. – During the opening day of the 2023 Fall Council Session on Monday, the 25th Navajo Nation Council convened and provided every opportunity within the Council's rules of order for Navajo Nation President Dr. Buu Nygren to present the State of the Navajo Nation Address. After waiting several minutes, the President nor any of his staff members were present within the Council Chamber.

As a courtesy, Navajo Nation Council Speaker Crystalyne Curley called on President Nygren five times, and took time to introduce the Northern Arizona University President who was present, before moving forward with the agenda items, in accordance with Navajo Nation law.

"The Council respects President Nygren and his administration. The Council's proposed agenda is made public three days in advance of the start of the session. As the Speaker, it is my responsibility to keep the agenda moving forward so that Council can tend to the order of business for the Nation," Speaker Curley said. "Council meets on a quarterly basis and all presenters are aware that it is their responsibility to be prepared.

In addition, the Council has designated seating for the Navajo Nation President and Vice President in the Council Chamber where the President, Vice President, or staff may sit. At the start of the session on Monday, Vice President Richelle Montoya sat in the designated seating area for the opening ceremonies.

Well in advance of the State of the Navajo Nation Address, the Office of the Speaker reached out directly to President Nygren and staff from the Office of the President and Vice President providing updates and reminders of the President's address.

Similar situations have occurred under previous Navajo Nation Presidents in which they were not able to provide their address due to not being present in the Council Chamber at the time of being called upon.

Speaker Curley noted that President Nygren is welcome to present his report before the Council adjourns from the fall session this week, which will require a suspension of the Council's floor rules.

“We’ve reached out and extended the invitation for President Nygren to deliver the State of the Navajo Nation Address before the Fall Council Session adjourns,” Speaker Curley said. “We understand that it’s important for the Navajo people to hear from their leaders and that opportunity remains on the table.”

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