



## THE NAVAJO NATION

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT & VICE PRESIDENT

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# Navajo Nation President Joe Shirley, Jr., calls for independent investigation in Clint John shooting

**WINDOW ROCK, Ariz.** – Navajo Nation President Joe Shirley, Jr., today urged that an independent investigation be conducted into the shooting death of Clint John, 21, by a Farmington, N.M., police officer.

Mr. John was shot to death June 10 in the Farmington Wal-Mart parking lot on East Main Street after he grabbed Farmington police officer Shawn Scott's baton, police said. Mr. John continued to advance toward the officer despite verbal commands to drop the baton and lie down on the ground. On Tuesday, the U.S. Department of Justice Civil Rights Division said it found no grounds to conduct a civil right investigation of the shooting.

However, President Shirley said that is not reason enough for an independent investigation not to go forward.

“As President of the Navajo Nation, my position has been very clear,” he said. “We need to have an independent investigation done, and we need to have it done ASAP. There are a lot of questions surrounding how the shooting took place, and was there even a need for deadly force?”

President Shirley said he believes the shooting could have somehow been avoided.

“I’m of the opinion that there was really no need for the use of deadly force,” he said. “I’ve shared my sentiments with the mayor and the city manager. They know that.”

He said the sooner an investigation is completed, the sooner the issue can be put to rest.

“I really believe that an independent investigation still needs to get done, and that the sooner we do it, the sooner we get this behind us,” the President said. “As long as there is no investigation done by an independent body, we’re going to have people who are very dissatisfied as to what’s going on between the City of Farmington and the Navajo Nation, and the Native American nations that are living there in the city as well as without the city nearby.”

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