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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Crownpoint Navajo Nation Police Department approved for two DWI police officers funding

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. -- Edmund Yazzie, Vice-chair of the Public Safety Committee of the Navajo Nation, said the Crownpoint Navajo Nation Police Department is scheduled to receive funding for two DWI law enforcement officers.

"This is something we need to strictly enforce DWIs," Yazzie said, adding that the two law enforcement officers will also carry out DWI public educational duties in schools, chapter houses and health fairs.

The Navajo Intergovernmental Relations Committee approved the funding by the state of New Mexico Department of Transportation.

Yazzie (Thoreau) is a first-term council delegate who has a 14-year law enforcement career that began when he was 19-years-old as a law enforcement officer for the Ramah Navajo.

Yazzie's career includes 13 years with the McKinley County Sheriff's Department, and worked as an Investigator for District Attorney Karl Gillison. He began his law enforcement career for the Ramah Police Department when he was 19-years-old.

A person is Driving While Intoxicated in New Mexico when he/she has a blood alcohol content of .08 percent or higher.

A first offense for DWI is punishable with a mandatory 24 hours spent in jail, and pay a fine, said Navajo Police Department Lt. Francine Bradley.

The intermission lock is put on the vehicle of the offender which measure the Blood Alcohol Content.

If you tested with a BAC of .08 percent, you are legal intoxication level, you get incarceration and your car is towed. The person has to attend a DWI class, according to Yazzie.

The second and third offenses each carry more jail time, Yazzie added.