



## Navajo Nation Council – Office of the Speaker

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March 28, 2012

### NEWS RELEASE:

## Speaker Naize, Council Delegate Butler represent Navajo Nation at MOU signing with City of Flagstaff

FLAGSTAFF, Ariz. – Speaker Johnny Naize (Low Mountain, Many Farms, Nazlini, Tachee/Blue Gap, Tselani/Cottonwood) and Council Delegate Joshua Lavar Butler (To' Nanees' Dizi) represented the Navajo Nation at the Memorandum of Understanding signing with the City of Flagstaff on March 27.

The City of Flagstaff became the sixth border town to enter into an MOU and the first Arizona border town to do so. The agreement was executed so both entities can become partners in strengthening race relations between Navajos and other races in the largest border town east of the Nation.

“Thank you to the Navajo Nation for coming to our chambers to sign this important Memorandum of Understanding,” stated Mayor Sara Presler in her opening remarks. “It really is a mutual agreement between the Nation and the City of Flagstaff to improve our quality of life, your quality of life, and the quality of life of everyone in this world.”

Speaker Naize expressed his appreciation to the City of Flagstaff for hosting the signing and emphasized the importance of working together to improve relations between the Navajo Nation and the City.



Navajo Nation signed MOU with City of Flagstaff yesterday at City Hall in Flagstaff, Ariz. Pictured, back row L-R: City Manager Kevin Burke; former City Councilman Art Babbott; Steve Darden, Navajo Human Rights Commission; Isabell Walker, Office of the President; City Councilwoman Karla Brewster; Vice Mayor Celia Barotz; Navajo Councilman Joshua Lavar Butler; City Councilwoman Coral Evans; Leonard Gorman, director of Navajo Human Rights Office; City Councilman Scott Overton; City Attorney Rosemary H. Rosales; City Councilman Mark Woodson. Front row, L-R: Navajo Council Speaker Johnny Naize; City Mayor Sara Presler; City Councilman Al White. (Photo by Anthony Peterman)

“The agreement we sign today will be the basis of everything we do from here on,” Speaker Naize commented. “We want to live in harmony with the City of Flagstaff, we can rely on each other, and we can be good neighbors by showing each other respect.”

Navajo Nation Council Delegate Butler, who was instrumental in presenting the MOU to the Naa'bik'iyati Committee of the 22<sup>nd</sup> Navajo Nation Council, said he was fortunate to have been part of the process of getting the MOU approved.

Council Delegate Butler also expressed his appreciation to the staff of the Navajo Nation Human Right Commission.

“I want to also thank our staff from the Navajo Nation Human Rights Commission, particularly Director Leonard Gorman and Policy Analyst Rodney Tahe for the dedication and persistence in fighting for equality of our Navajo People,” Council Delegate Butler said. “The purpose of this MOU is to strengthen communication between the two entities and it will assist the Human Rights Commission in addressing issues raised in the race relations report that was introduced and passed by Navajo Nation Council.”

“Thank you for this important first step for improved relations between the City of Flagstaff and the Navajo Nation,” Mayor Presler added. “We meet here today to fully execute this Memorandum of Understanding that is grounded in honor and dignity.”

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