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**Resources and Development Committee receives
report regarding CARE 66 and funding initiatives**

WINDOW ROCK – On Tuesday, the Resources and Development Committee received a report from the nonprofit development organization known as CARE 66, located in Gallup, N.M., regarding a request for funding for affordable housing services to benefit low-income residents.

In addition to affordable housing services, CARE 66 currently provides services such as job training, educational training, and assisting in transitional housing to permanent housing to help clients achieve their long-term goals.

“For statistical purposes, half the businesses in Gallup are owned by Native Americans. Almost half the population in Gallup are Native Americans. So, we serve a purpose. On any given night, there are 170 individuals that are homeless,” stated Carl Smith, Chief Operating Officer of CARE 66.

According to the report, CARE 66 develops housing primarily for Native Americans, 80% of which are for Navajo people. CARE 66 also accommodates mixed-ethnicities and a mixed income community.

“86% of Navajos have succeeded and went on to permanent employment. This should tell you that this organization is doing something good. We need money to make our people successful. I believe that we have the tools and knowledge to make our people successful,” stated Smith.

RDC member Council Delegate Leonard Pete (Chinle) pointed out that a large sum of revenue is being generated for the Gallup economy by Navajo people.

“I have a love/hate relationship with Gallup. I hate to go there and pour my money into that place. The reason why I am saying this is because we can’t even develop our own reservation and communities. If we can’t do that, we might as well move off the reservation and move into Gallup and spend our money there and develop Gallup,” stated Delegate Pete.

According to the report, CARE 66 completed the renovation of Gallup’s downtown Lexington Hotel to serve as a supported housing facility. The organization is currently in the process of developing, Hooghan Hózhó, which will provide green, affordable housing and support services to its clients.

RDC member Council Delegate Leonard Tsosie (Baca/Prewitt, Casamero Lake, Counselor, Littlewater, Ojo Encino, Pueblo Pintado, Torreon, Whitehorse Lake) supported the organization's initiatives adding that he was impressed with CARE 66's proposed housing plans.

"CARE 66 has this great plan on how to help the Navajo people. [Navajo Housing Authority] has no plans. I go out there and you see all these houses boarded up and they are renovating the same houses that they have renovated a couple years ago. We need to change the players at NHA. The number one issue is housing," stated Delegate Tsosie.

CARE 66 is seeking approximately \$5 million among other projects, to plan and construct 100 microapartments for single people which will include the homeless, students, and others in need. CARE 66 will leverage NHA monies to make this project possible.

RDC chair Council Delegate Katherine Benally (Chilchinbeto, Dennehotso, Kayenta) proposed moving CARE 66's office to a site on the Navajo Nation.

"We need housing in the heart of the Nation and they are not being built. Move to the Navajo Nation, CARE 66. Move on to the Navajo Nation and where you can see us. We still need homes and residencies, too," stated Delegate Benally.

Smith said his team has hired case workers and believes they have found a solution to help Navajo people and to make them successful.

"You sit with them, you talk with them, you plan with them, you develop a service plan and you support and encourage them, all the way through until they become successful. 15 years ago, I was exactly in their shoes. I walked the City of Gallup. I ate in the trash cans. I had no education. Within 15 years, I got myself a job, went back to school and attained my master's degree in Social Work. Our people can do that," stated Smith.

RDC members voted 4-0 to accept the report.

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