



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Law and Order Committee receives report from Navajo County officials

WINDOW ROCK – On Monday, the Law and Order Committee received a report from Navajo County officials, regarding public safety, public works, health, and an upcoming emergency management summit, from Navajo County Supervisor Jonathan Nez and Navajo County Sheriff Kelly Clark.

Supervisor Nez, who also serves as a Council Delegate, stated that the relationship between the Navajo Nation Division of Public Safety and Navajo County Sheriff’s Office is very positive, particularly as it relates to cross commissioning of Navajo Nation and Navajo County law enforcement agencies.

“I think it is important to state that the cross commissioning agreements between the Nation and Navajo County are working,” said Supervisor Nez. “And we hope that this can serve as a model to other counties that lie within the Navajo Nation boundaries.”

In appreciation of the relationship between the Navajo Nation and Navajo County, LOC member Council Delegate Elmer Begay (Dilkon, Greasewood Springs, Indian Wells, Teesto, Whitecone) expressed his gratitude for the continued work between both governmental entities and requested for a thorough report regarding public safety relations in the future.

“It is important for the Navajo Nation and Navajo County to meet and report regularly to update us on the status of the cross commissioning initiative,” said Delegate Begay. “I commend the relationship between both public safety agencies because the communities I represent lie within Navajo County.”

Sheriff Clark said that Navajo County has worked with the Navajo Nation on other public safety issues such as aiding in serving federal arrest warrants, K-9 drug searches in reservation schools, community checks, and community outreach programs.

Supervisor Nez added that Navajo County also aided the Navajo Nation in other areas, such as improving and maintaining roads due to natural disasters, recertifying BIA officials to climb and repair windmill towers, teen pregnancy programs, drug prevention in schools, physical fitness and wellness programs, and a tri-county emergency management summit held in November 2013.

“Navajo County, Coconino County, and Apache County met with Navajo Nation officials to discuss how we can all collaboratively respond to emergencies and natural disasters,” said supervisor Nez.

Supervisor Nez said that another summit would take place soon to inform all Navajo chapters of the partnership between the three counties and the Navajo Nation, adding that they hope to include the Hopi Tribe in the summit and begin discussion with their leaders.

At the conclusion of the meeting, LOC members voiced their support for the cross commissioning initiative, as well as the strengthened relationship between the Navajo Nation and Navajo County, and said they hope this will serve as a model to other tribal/county governmental entities.

LOC members voted 3-0 to accept the report.

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