23RD NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL
OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER

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Navajo Nation Council confirms two new members to the gaming board

WINDOW ROCK – During the 2017 Summer Council Session, the Navajo Nation Council approved two separate legislations that confirm the appointments of Affie Ellis and Herbert Clah, Jr. to serve as the newest members of the Navajo Nation Gaming Enterprise board of directors.

Council Delegate Alton Joe Shepherd (Jeddito, Cornfields, Ganado, Kin Dah Lichíí, Steamboat) sponsored Legislation No. 0224-17, confirming Affie Ellis to the board. Ellis, who grew up in Jackson Wyoming said her mother is originally from the small Navajo community of Crystal, N.M.

She is currently a Wyoming state senator and previously worked for the Navajo Nation Department of Justice, National Indian Gaming Commission, University of Wyoming, and previously served as the an assistant attorney general for the state of Wyoming. Ellis' educational background includes a bachelor of science from the University of Wyoming and a juris doctor from the University of Colorado School of Law.

Council members confirmed Ellis' appointment by a vote of 15-5.

Herbert Clah, Jr. was also confirmed through Legislation No. 0231-17, which was approved by the Council with a vote of 17-3. Clah's professional background includes serving as the director of human resources, human relations specialist, and the human resources manager at the Desert Diamond Casino. His educational background includes a bachelor of arts in American Indian Studies from the University of Arizona and a Masters of Management from the University of Phoenix.

Prior to confirming each of the new members, several Council members shared their concerns and expectations for the gaming board based on the enterprise's performance. Several Council members urged the new members to push for new developments that would benefit the Nation's gaming industry and revenues and economic development initiatives near gaming sites.

Other delegates asked the new members to focus more attention on issues such as gaming addiction and revisiting smoking bans in gaming facilities.

Each of the appointments are effective upon their respective confirmations. The new members will fill positions on the board that call for a term of four-years.

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