23rd Navajo Nation Council
Office of the Speaker

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 15, 2017

MEDIA CONTACTS
Jared Touchin (928) 221-9253
Jolene Holgate (928) 380-4174
Crystalyne Curley (928) 286-7918
nnlb.communications@gmail.com

Law and Order Committee welcomes Jeddito Elementary School to committee meeting

PHOTO: Jeddito Elementary School eighth grade students addressing the Law and Order Committee on March 13, 2017 in Window Rock, Ariz.

WINDOW ROCK – On Monday, the Law and Order Committee welcomed eighth grade students from Jeddito Elementary School to the committee's regular meeting to ask questions in reference to Navajo government and the roles of legislators.

LOC chair Council Delegate Edmund Yazzie (Churchrock, Iyanbito, Mariano Lake, Pinedale, Smith Lake, Thoreau) recognized the students during the meeting discussion and allowed approximately one hour for the students to question the committee members.

"The committee is very thankful that Jeddito students came to our meeting today to learn about the legislative process and the tribal government structure," stated Delegate Yazzie.

The majority of the questions from the students centered on public safety issues including how many Navajo police officers currently serve the Nation, if police officers are cross-commissioned, and how the separation of powers between the Nation's three branches developed.

LOC vice chair Council Delegate Raymond Smith, Jr. (Houck, Klagetoh, Nahata Dziil, Tsé Si áni, Wide Ruins) explained that the committee has been working aggressively to increase the number of police officers within the Nation.

"Currently, the Nation has approximately 220 police officers covering over 27,000 square-miles. There are not enough officers to keep all 110 communities safe. Our goal is to have 400 to 500 police officers. It's a dangerous job but we continue to support our officers. This year, the committee approved to increase the salary for police officers. Hopefully, more of people will apply to serve," stated Delegate Smith.

LOC member Council Delegate Kee Allen Begay, Jr. (Low Mountain, Many Farms, Nazlini, Tachee/Blue Gap, Tselani/Cottonwood) explained to the students that the Nation has the ability to cross-commission with county and federal law enforcement officers to address emergency response times on the Navajo Nation.

Delegate Yazzie thanked the students for traveling to Window Rock and for their interest in their government and welcomed the students to return any time.

Jeddito Elemetary School teacher Delores Noble thanked the committee for allowing the students to speak and express their questions and concerns.

"Thank you for coming today. Continue to be involved in our tribal government and actively participate in your communities because one day you will be sitting in our seats. Never be afraid to ask questions and approach challenges," said LOC member Council Delegate Herman Daniels, Jr. (Shonto, Naa'tsis'Áán, Oljato, Ts'ah Bii Kin) to the students.

Jeddito Elementary School is located in Keams Canyon, Ariz, approximately 74-miles west of Window Rock, Ariz.

# # #

For news on the latest legislative branch activities, please visit www.navajonationcouncil.org or find us on Facebook and Twitter, keywords: Navajo Nation Council