



The 22nd Navajo Nation Council — Office of the Speaker
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NNC Speaker Naize Saddened By Loss of NNPD Officer

Law & Order Committee Chair also offers condolences

Window Rock, AZ – Navajo Nation Council Speaker Johnny Naize was shocked and sadden at the death of Navajo Nation Police Sergeant Darrell Curley who was shot Sunday morning while responding to a domestic violence call in Kaibeto, a community 37 miles southeast of Page, Arizona.

“Over the weekend we lost a brave and dedicated public servant who tirelessly worked to ensure our communities remained safe,” said Speaker Naize, “Please join with me and the Council with prayers and gratitude for his service to the Navajo people and let us comfort his family, friends and his Tuba City colleagues during this time of extreme loss. His sacrifice will not be forgotten.”

Sgt. Curley was 48 and a 26-year veteran of the Navajo Nation Police Department (NNPD). Originally from Chinle, he lived in Kaibeto working for the community substation. Kaibeto is part of the Tuba City District, one of seven NNPD jurisdictions covering the Navajo Nation.

Law & Order Committee Chairman, Edmund Yazzie (Churchrock, Iyanbito, Mariano Lake, Pinedale, Smith Lake, Thoreau), a former NNPD police officer himself, offered his condolences.

“As law enforcement men and women, we know the risk as we work to keep the public safe,” said Delegate Yazzie. “But it is a risk we are willing to take so that the Navajo people and their families can live their lives free from fear and violence. The Committee and I thank Sgt. Curley for his efforts to keep us safe.”

Last week, Chairperson Yazzie announced his committee's plan to hold a work session on July 14 with county sheriffs, whose jurisdictions include the Navajo Nation, to explore ways to enhance police coverage by creating cross-deputizing agreements with county law enforcement personnel to improve public safety.

Preliminary reports have said Sgt. Curley and another officer, Vernon Begay, were responding to a report of two brothers fighting. While subduing one of the suspects the brother's father allegedly approached and shot at the two officers, fatally wounding Sgt. Curley. The Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI) is investigating the incident with the help of the Arizona Department of Public Safety.

Funeral arrangements for Sgt. Curley are pending.

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