



The 21st Navajo Nation Council

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Speaker Morgan creates Intergovernmental Relations Transition Taskforce to help 22nd Navajo Nation Council with its transition to a 24-member body

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. – In *Nelson vs. Initiative Committee to Reduce Navajo Nation Council and Dr. Joe Shirley*, the Navajo Supreme Court said the reorganization efforts of the Navajo Nation Legislative Branch are “essentially a political and management decision that should be left to the legislative branch.” With that in mind, the Honorable Speaker Lawrence T. Morgan sponsored legislation creating the Intergovernmental Relations Transition Taskforce to help the 22nd Navajo Nation Council with its transition to a 24-member legislature.

On Aug. 2, the Navajo Nation Council’s Intergovernmental Relations Committee enacted Resolution IGRAU-128-10 on a vote of 4-2, which established the IGR Transition Task Force and its plan of operation. Pursuant to 2 N.N.C. §824 (B) (1), the IGR Transition Taskforce was established.

As spelled out in its plan of operation, the IGR Committee selected six chairpersons or vice-chairpersons of standing committees of the Navajo Nation Council for membership to the IGR Transition Taskforce. On Nov. 1, the day before the 2010 Navajo Nation General Election, the committee selected Leonard Chee, vice-chair for the Budget and Finance Committee; Johnny Naize, vice-chair for the Transportation and Community Development Committee; Roscoe Smith, vice-chair for the Ethics and Rules Committee; Young Jeff Tom, vice-chair for the Human Services Committee; LoRenzo C. Bates, chair for the Budget and Finance Committee and Francis Redhouse, chair for the Ethics and Rules Committee, as members of the IGR Transition Taskforce.

The six members of the IGR Transition Taskforce are appointed by Speaker Morgan and serve at the pleasure of the Speaker. The membership of the Taskforce includes representatives from the Chinle, Eastern, Fort Defiance, Northern and Western Agencies.

The purpose of the IGR Transition Taskforce is to help administer the work of the Legislative Branch in helping transition from an 88-member Council to a 24-member legislative body.

According to its plan of operation, the IGR Transition Taskforce has the authority to make recommendations to the Speaker and work with any elected official or staff member of the Legislative Branch. To date, the Taskforce has met once and will continue to meet on a weekly basis through the end of the 21st Navajo Nation Council.

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