



## OFFICE OF NAVAJO NATION HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

P.O. BOX 129 | ST. MICHAELS, NAVAJO NATION (AZ) 86511  
PHONE: (928) 871-7436 | FAX: (928) 871-7437

### **Immediate Release:**

June 23, 2020

### **Family Dollar in St. Michaels, AZ applied for liquor license.**

**St. Michaels, Navajo Nation (ARIZ)** – The Family Dollar in St. Michaels on the Navajo Nation currently posted notice of application to sell alcoholic beverages in the store. The local governing body, Apache County supervisors, would be able to recommend to the Arizona Liquor Board to either grant or deny the liquor license. An upcoming hearing for Apache County Board of Supervisors will be on July 28, 2020 at 8:30 A.M. MST at Apache County Clerk's office, 75 W. Cleveland St., St. Johns, AZ. Time and date for the hearing is subject to change; verify the meeting date and time by calling 928-337-7502.

The Navajo Nation Human Rights Commission was involved in the denial of transferring liquor licenses from one party to the next in 2014. It was clear from this experience that land set aside for the sale of alcohol becomes sacred grounds and is very difficult to change the land status once it is designated for liquor sales. This is why it is very important that citizens and businesses within one-mile radius of the Family Dollar store to get involved in expressing their position on this matter. The character of the licensee will be questioned along the lines if this person is *capable* to run a liquor store, does this person have the necessary *qualifications* and is this person *reliable*. Unfortunately, the Arizona Liquor Department is least concerned about the social impacts of alcohol abuse in communities; their concern centers on the legal sale of alcohol.

Any person residing, owning, or leasing property within a 1-mile radius of the proposed site can file as a protestor to oppose the liquor license with Arizona liquor board. Online applications are at <https://azliquor.gov/assets/documents/board/FY2019/ProtestInstructions.pdf>. If you have any questions regarding the application process or procedures of the board please contact the Arizona Liquor board at 800 W. Washington, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor, Phoenix AZ 85007 or call 602-542-9789.

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