



Contact: Erny Zah
Director of Communications
Cell: (928) 380-0771

navajonationpress@navajo-nsn.gov

 facebook.com/president.benshelly

For Immediate Release
March 14, 2012

Navajo President Shelly Helps Kick Off DWI Superblitz



Navajo President Ben Shelly (left) stands with Gov. Susana Martinez (center) and First Lady Martha Shelly.

BERNALILLO, N.M. – Navajo Nation President Ben Shelly urged people to be safe on the roads this St. Patrick’s Day weekend and not drink alcohol while driving.

“We live in times, in which lives can be changed in a heartbeat. DUI’s can change lives forever, and I assure you the Navajo Nation is doing all we can to keep our roads and travelers safe,” said President Shelly from a prepared speech.

President Shelly was one of five speakers at a press conference that kicked off a statewide St. Patrick’s Holiday Mini Superblitz Tuesday afternoon.

“The easiest way to prevent DWI’s is for people not to drink and drive,” President Shelly said.

He joined New Mexico Gov. Susana Martinez, Public Safety Secretary Gordon Eden, Transportation Secretary Alvin Dominguez, State Sen. Lynda Lovejoy (D-Crownpoint) and three mothers who lost children to DUI related car accidents.

“Really at the end of the day, three moms standing behind me will live their lives without their children that’s because some decided to get behind the wheel of a car, a deadly weapon, and drive down the roadway,” Gov. Martinez said.

President Shelly also stated the Navajo Nation’s efforts to create more presence on Hwy. 550. Using a 1981 cross commissioning agreement with the New Mexico State Police, the Navajo Police are able to put seven officers on Hwy. 550 in areas near and on the Navajo Nation.

In addition, Secretary Eden said President Shelly was proactive in creating presence for both Navajo police and New Mexico State Police.

“He came up to us and asked, ‘What can I do to help,’” Sec. Eden said referring to a January meeting between the Navajo Nation and the New Mexico Department of Transportation and the New Mexico State Police.

But the President said having extra officers on Hwy. 550 isn’t enough and called for the state and counties to work and continue working with the Navajo Nation for cross-commissioning agreements for law officers.

“We all have to work together to create strong and new partnerships to get this done,” President Shelly said.

The St. Patrick’s Holiday Superblitz started today and will run through March 19, during which time, state law enforcement will increase their presence on New Mexico roadways.

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