



The Navajo Nation Office of the President and Vice President

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Nez-Lizer approve \$1.3 million appropriation for chapter officials



PHOTO: Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez signs Resolution No. CJN-22-19 during the Western Agency Council meeting at Coppermine Chapter in Coppermine, Ariz. on June 15, 2019.

COPPERMINE, Ariz. – On Saturday, Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez signed Resolution CJN-22-19, appropriating over \$1.3 million from the Navajo Nation’s Unreserved, Undesignated Fund Balance for the 110 Navajo Nation chapters for officials stipends and worker’s compensation, during the Western Agency Council quarterly meeting held at the Coppermine Chapter.

President Nez was joined by local officials from the Western Navajo Agency, as he signed the resolution to provide adequate funding for local officials for the remainder of the current fiscal year. The funding request sponsored by Council Delegate Mark Freeland was unanimously approved by the 24th Navajo Nation Council during a special session held on June 5.

“Working with the Navajo Nation Council on supplemental funding is one approach to ensure our local officials are compensated for the important work they do for their communities, but we also

need to be mindful of the looming reduced revenue for the Navajo Nation for the upcoming fiscal year, as we budget for services not only for the central government but for our local governments as well,” said President Nez.

President Nez and Vice President Lizer have directed all division directors to make certain they account for all necessary services for the new budget year that begins on Oct. 1, 2019 — this includes fully funding stipends for local officials to eliminate the need for supplement funding requests during the fiscal year.

“We appreciate the 24th Navajo Nation Council’s action in supporting supplemental funding for our local officials. We look forward to working with the Council on producing a fiscally responsible budget for FY2020 that provides direct services for our Navajo people while also reducing unnecessary spending,” stated Vice President Lizer.

During a report to the Council’s Budget and Finance Committee on May 14, President Nez and Vice President Lizer stated in a letter that they would support the supplement funding request for local officials.

They also informed the committee that the Executive Branch is reviewing the operations of each division and department to identify duplicate services, stagnant federal dollars, excessive spending, and other cost-saving measures, including reducing the amount of travel for employees for conferences, summits, and meetings that occur off of the Navajo Nation.

“Working together with the Legislative and Judicial Branches, we can be more fiscally responsible and innovative in the way we develop our respective budgets to avoid layoffs while ensuring that direct services for our youth, elders, and all communities are met,” added President Nez.

Council Delegate Paul Begay, who represents the Coppermine community as a member of the 24th Navajo Nation Council, also joined President Nez for the signing of the resolution on Saturday, and offered his appreciation to the local officials for their dedication and hard work for local community members.

The Office of the President and Vice President thanks the Coppermine Chapter, the Western Navajo Agency, and the 24th Navajo Nation Council for their support and partnership.

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