



The Navajo Nation
Office of the President and Vice President

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Navajo Nation leaders address Gallup Inter-Tribal Ceremonial Parade violence with City of Gallup



GALLUP, N.M. – On Friday, Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez and 24th Navajo Nation Council Speaker Seth Damon met with the City of Gallup Mayor, Louie Bonaguidi, New Mexico Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham, Gallup Inter-tribal Ceremonial Director Melissa Sanchez, and state legislators to address the events that occurred during the Gallup Inter-Tribal Ceremonial Night Parade on Thursday in Gallup, N.M. when a suspected impaired driver drove recklessly through the parade route.

According to a report from the City of Gallup, during the parade, Gallup Police Officers were notified that several people were consuming alcohol in a vehicle that was parked along the parade route. Contact was made, the driver put the vehicle in drive and proceeded to strike police officers, pedestrians, vehicles and a business before the vehicle backed into a New Mexico State Police unit and those involved were taken into custody. All injuries were assessed by medical personnel and transported to local hospitals with moderate but no life-threatening injuries.

“We are thankful that no lives were lost due to this senseless act by a few individuals. The perpetrators must be held accountable to the fullest extent. My family and I, as well as many of our Navajo people, witnessed the tragic events firsthand. We saw children who were shedding tears and people shaking with fear and we did our best to comfort them and let them know that everything would be okay. It’s important that our people talk to one another and share your experiences with

one another. Our faith and prayers will carry us through this tough time. The Navajo Nation will have a day of prayer on Sunday to bring all faiths together so we can heal together,” said President Nez.

New Mexico Gov. Lujan Grisham stated that the New Mexico State Police are leading the investigation and will have increased law enforcement presence at the ceremonial events for the remainder of the week. Officials also reported that there are no significant injuries or deaths reported. The Governor also confirmed that there were no gunshots fired during the incident.

Council Delegates Edmund Yazzie, Nathaniel Brown, and Amber Kanazbah Crotty were also in attendance and spoke about the need to step up efforts to address substance and alcohol use, mental health, and called on the City of Gallup to do more to protect the safety of the ceremonial event attendees and participants.

Gallup Inter-Tribal Ceremonial Director Melissa Sanchez read a statement on behalf of the ceremonial office and board, expressing their thoughts and prayers. She added that the safety of community members, participants, travelers, and event staff and volunteers is their top priority as the events continue as planned.

The proclamation issued by President Nez and Vice President Myron Lizer recognizes August 7, 2022 as a “Navajo Nation Day of Prayer” to bring all faiths together to help recover and heal from Thursday’s tragic events.

If you or a loved one is impacted there are resources available with the Navajo Nation Department of Mental and Behavioral Health at 988 or your local Indian Health Services at:

- Tsehootsooi Medical Center (928) 729-8000
- Nahata’Dziil Health Center (928) 688-5600
- Gallup Indian Medical Center (505) 722-1000
- Crown point Health Care Facility (505) 786-5291
- Sage Memorial Hospital (928) 755-4500
- Chinle Comprehensive Health Care Facility (928) 674-7001
- Winslow Indian Health Care Clinic (928) 289-4646 or (800) 786-8907
- Tuba City Regional Health Care Corp (866) 976-5941
- Kayenta Health Center (928) 697-4000
- Inscription House Health Center (928) 672-3000
- Northern Navajo Medical Center (505) 368-6001
- Four Corners Regional Health Center (928) 656-5000
- Dzilth Na O Dith Hle Health Center (505) 960-1801 or 1 (888) 531-7233
- Chinle Comprehensive Health Care (928) 722-1000
- Dilkon Field Clinic (928) 657-3800

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THE NAVAJO NATION

Proclamation

RECOGNIZING AUGUST 7, 2022 AS "NAVAJO NATION DAY OF PRAYER"

We, the Navajo Nation people throughout our history, have relied on our prayers as a means of uniting, guiding, and healing. During times of traumatic events, we call upon the Navajo people to join together in prayer for the City of Gallup and all tribal communities.

WHEREAS, the Navajo people say, "Tsodizin t'ei bee honit'i" to encourage all people, from all beliefs, to pray in earnest as their faith directs them; and

WHEREAS, our Navajo people and communities will not be swayed by acts of terrors and violence, but rather bring us together through kinship, compassion, and faith; and

WHEREAS, we call upon the Creator to protect all those who were affected, and to pray to shield innocents from harm; and

WHEREAS, the Navajo people pray for the first responders and civilians who saved many lives during the acts of terror and violence; and

WHEREAS, the Navajo Nation encourages everyone of all faiths to participate in the Navajo Nation Day of Prayer for our Nation to remain strong and resilient; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, JONATHAN NEZ, President of the Navajo Nation, and **I, MYRON LIZER** Vice-President of the Navajo Nation do hereby proclaim and recognize August 7, 2022 as "Navajo Nation Day of Prayer."

PROCLAIMED THIS 5th DAY OF AUGUST 2022

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jonathan Nez".

Jonathan Nez, *President*
THE NAVAJO NATION

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Myron Lizer".

Myron Lizer, *Vice President*
THE NAVAJO NATION