



## 23RD NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER

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### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Law and Order Committee receives report from the Navajo Nation Division of Public Safety**

**RAMAH, N.M.** – Last Monday, the Law and Order Committee received a report from the newly appointed Navajo Nation Division of Public Safety director, Jesse Delmar. He touched on issues such as increasing the number of police officers, creating a police academy, and his meetings with managers within the division to seek recommendations.

“I want to do a whole assessment to determine the status of the NNDPS. I met with all the division components such as police, corrections, emergency medical services, and the fire department. We plan to approach these issues with a goal-oriented plan and establish objectives. The state of the NNDPS is not good, and it needs a lot of work,” said Delmar.

Delmar added that he has contacted college officials from Navajo Technical University to propose a collaborative partnership to develop a Navajo police academy program on the Navajo Nation to train police and corrections officers through classes and hands-on training.

LOC chair Council Delegate Edmund Yazzie (Churchrock, Iyanbito, Mariano Lake, Pinedale, Smith Lake, Thoreau) expressed his support for Delmar’s police academy initiative, and reminded committee members of the difficulty the LOC has had with the previous administration in developing a similar program.

“I am thankful that Mr. Delmar is here. Out of the past five years, our committee and the last division director [John Billison] only met two times. These issues we have talked about before were just put away and weren’t carried out, like a police academy. We couldn’t get Billison to work with us, and I’ll say that publicly,” said Delegate Yazzie.

Delmar informed the LOC that he has also met individually with several public safety personnel, and the needs that were conveyed to him were the same concerns that the LOC had mentioned, such as increasing police personnel, constructing police substations throughout the Navajo Nation, and becoming more involved with Navajo communities. He stressed that it was important to listen to the Navajo people and begin fulfilling their needs to increase a positive public relationship.

LOC member Council Delegate Kee Allen Begay, Jr. (Low Mountain, Many Farms, Nazlini, Tachee/Blue Gap, Tselani/Cottonwood) thanked Delmar for his status report, and made

recommendations relating to amendment of the Navajo Nation Code Title 17 Criminal Code and the upcoming budget preparations.

“Where do you want the LOC to make changes in Title 17? I think it’s important to take a look at it and make amendments to improve our laws. We look forward to your recommendations and hope that it will be in-sync with state and federal policies already in place,” said Delegate Begay. “Also, keep in mind that your recommendations will affect your upcoming budget, so incorporate those requests when we begin considering the FY2016 budget.”

At the conclusion of the report, committee members agreed to hold a work session at a later date to begin a comprehensive analysis of the NNDPS and to aid in developing solutions to current issues, as well as working collaboratively with Delmar to begin making positive adjustments for the division.

LOC members voted 3-0 to accept the report.

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