



## 23RD NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Council awaiting investigation of Navajo woman killed by Winslow police**

**WINDOW ROCK** – On March 27, two Winslow police officers responded to a call at a Circle K convenience store in the community of Winslow in which a Navajo woman, Loreal Tsingine, was suspected of shoplifting items from the store.

According to Arizona Department of Public Safety public information officer Raul Garcia, an altercation occurred and Tsingine brandished a weapon in which one of the police officers deemed as a substantial threat to their safety and opened fire, killing Tsingine.

He said detectives from the Major Crimes District of the Arizona Department of Public Safety are investigating the incident, and the officer who shot Tsingine was placed on administrative leave.

Speaker LoRenzo Bates (Nenahnezad, Newcomb, San Juan, Tiis Tsoh Sikaad, Tse'Daa'Kaan, Upper Fruitland) said that the 23<sup>rd</sup> Navajo Nation Council is awaiting the outcome of the investigation of Tsingine's death to determine if excessive force was used by the Winslow police officers.

"On behalf of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Navajo Nation Council, our thoughts and prayers are with the family of Loreal Tsingine and everyone else involved with this tragic incident," said Speaker Bates.

Council Delegate Amber Kanazbah Crotty (Beclabito, Cove, Gadi'i'áhi/To'Koi, Red Valley, Tooh Haltsooi, Toadlena/Two Grey Hills, Tsé ałnáoz't'í'í) said communities have a right to express their views regarding the situation, but to remain mindful and respectful for the families of Tsingine.

"As a community leader, I encourage the public to respect the Navajo traditions of K'é and Hózhó. Please respect the Tsingine and Barnell families during their time of grief," said Delegate Crotty.

A community based organization known, as "Red Nation" will be holding a "Vigil for Justice" at the Winslow Police Department on Saturday, April 2 at 3:00 p.m.

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