



23RD NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER

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Law and Order Committee approves Intergovernmental Agreement between the Navajo Nation and city of Page

WINDOW ROCK – On Monday, the Law and Order Committee unanimously approved an Intergovernmental Agreement between the Navajo Nation Police Department, Navajo Division of Public Safety, and the city of Page Police Department.

According to the agreement, the intent is to ensure better law enforcement services by providing mutual use of law enforcement personnel and resources in the event of a disaster, disorder, emergencies or special requests of events in the respective jurisdiction. Both parties intend to provide trained and experienced law enforcement officers to increase protection for the public.

“This is a great opportunity to address public safety for the two communities. The community of LeChee and city of Page need to continue to work together to promote safety for families,” stated LOC member Council Delegate Otto Tso (Tó Nanees Dizi), who co-sponsored the legislation.

The agreement outlines the provisions for the scope of powers, arrest and custody procedures, citations for traffic offenses, investigations, extraditions, forfeitures, supervision and control, compensation and benefits, indemnification, saving clause, and termination.

Page Police Chief Frank Balkcom, Sr., stated that he has met with nearby chapters and the people expressed their expectations of the Page Police Department, adding that he appreciates the opportunity to work with the Navajo Nation.

Navajo Nation President Russell Begaye signed the agreement on Feb. 8, 2016 prior to the LOC’s approval.

LOC chair Council Delegate Edmund Yazzie (Churchrock, Iyanbito, Mariano Lake, Pinedale, Smith Lake, Thoreau) said that any intergovernmental agreements should be presented for approval before the appropriate council standing committees before the president signs off.

“This agreement was done backwards by going to the President’s Office before LOC, but I am grateful that my committee members approved the agreement to provide better public safety resources for our rural communities near Page,” stated Delegate Yazzie.

Both the city of Page and the Navajo Nation will be required to issue a mutual aid law enforcement certification card, which will require Page police officers to complete a 16-hour training course provided by the Navajo Nation.

LOC voted 3-0 to approve the agreement between both parties with an additional amendment to reference 17 N.N.C. Section 102.

The Law and Order Committee serves as the final authority for Legislation No. 0080-16.

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