



23RD NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 23, 2018

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Law and Order Committee approves planning funds for Window Rock Judicial and Public Safety facility

WINDOW ROCK – On Monday, the Law and Order Committee considered Legislation No. 0086-18, approving an allocation of approximately \$2.9 million from the Judicial/Public Safety Fund for the planning phase of the Window Rock Judicial and Public Safety facility. The planning funds include the design and engineering services of the new facility and the demolition of the current facility.

A percentage of the revenue from the Navajo Nation sales tax is deposited into the Judicial/Public Safety Fund for the purpose of providing funding for judicial and public safety facilities. The fund is managed by a management fund that permits subsidies for projects and activities including facility planning.

LOC member Council Delegate Otto Tso (Tó Nanees Dizi), who sponsored the legislation, urged the committee's support to fund the planning phase of the new judicial and public safety facility.

"The current conditions of the current Window Rock Public Safety building are inadequate for employees, visitors, and inmates. The building was built in the 1960s and it has deteriorated, however, the Department of Corrections is still utilizing the building. The building is falling apart and we need safe and adequate buildings for our employees," said Delegate Tso.

In support of the legislation, LOC vice chair Council Delegate Raymond Smith, Jr. (Houck, Klagetoh, Nahata Dziil, Tsé Si áni, Wide Ruins) stated that the proposed Window Rock Judicial and Public Safety facility is the number one priority of the Judicial/Public Safety Fund priority listing.

In June 2017, the committee approved resolution LOCJN-04-17, which included the Window Rock Judicial and Public Safety facility as the number one priority for fiscal year 2017 and 2018.

Delegate Tso added, "The new facility would allow the public safety departments to be collective. Currently, employees are scattered throughout the Window Rock area to perform their duties."

LOC chair Council Delegate Edmund Yazzie (Churchrock, Iyanbito, Mariano Lake, Pinedale, Smith Lake, Thoreau) recommended his committee members, Navajo Nation Division of Public Safety, and Navajo Nation Judicial Branch begin searching for resources to fund facilities and services.

The committee also approved Legislation No. 0089-18, which allocates \$425,000 from the Judicial/Public Safety Fund for computer equipment for the Judicial Branch.

The Law and Order Committee approved Legislation No. 0086-18 and No. 0089-18 with a vote of 3-0. The committee serves as the final authority on the bills.

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