



The 24TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL
Office of the Speaker

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Delegate Newton Delivers Recommendations to Federal Public Safety Programs

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. – Aug 27, 2019 – Navajo Nation Council Delegate Eugenia Charles-Newton took part in both days of the 2019 Inaugural Indian Country Public Safety Summit, Aug. 26-27, 2019, hosted by federal officials to share information with tribal leaders on public safety resources. Federal programs also used the summit to collect tribal input for improving their delivery of public safety services.



PHOTO: Navajo Nation Chief of Police Phillip Francisco, Navajo President Nez, Asst. Secretary on Indian Affairs Tara K. Sweeney and 24th Navajo Nation Council Delegate Eugenia Charles-Newton at the 2019 Inaugural Indian Country Public Safety Summit on Aug. 26-27, 2019.

“Both of our facilities in the Shiprock and Window Rock area have been shut down because of health concerns. They both have been condemned. And yet, out of the Shiprock facility, we have officers that are still working out of those offices because they don’t have anywhere else to go,” said Delegate Newton.

Delegate Newton explained to the agencies that the Shiprock public safety facility serves three states. She invited the federal officials to tour public safety facilities on Navajo Nation with Navajo Nation Chief of Police Phillip Francisco to view building conditions.

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“Transparency is very important and right now we don’t have funding information. When that money is given, we don’t know how that money trickles down. But we get pennies by the time it reaches us,” said Delegate Newton.

Delegate Newton went on to state that federal, state, and county programs use Navajo Nation population and demographic statistics to obtain more funding for their programs. The Navajo Nation doesn’t get the full amount of funding from these programs which contributes to a shortage of police officers and dilapidated facilities, Delegate Newton said.

“If each tribe could have control of that money so that they know where it’s going and that they address the needs within their tribes, then that would be a better formula for all of us,” said Delegate Newton. She went on to invite the federal officials to coordinate with the Navajo Nation on a trauma informed training program.

Delegate Newton concluded her comments to the federal program officials by thanking them on behalf of the Navajo Nation for holding the public safety summit and for seeking tribal input on the delivery of federal services.

The federal agencies and departments included the United States Department of Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Office of Justice Services, the U.S. Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women, Office of Justice Programs, Drug Enforcement Agency, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Indian Health Service, the Departments of Homeland Security, Housing, and Urban Development, the Veterans Administration, and more.

Delegate Newton represents the Shiprock Chapter and is the Chairperson of the Law and Order Committee of the 24th Navajo Nation Council.

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