



23RD NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER

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Law and Order Committee continues to address the need for public safety in the Western Navajo Agency

LECHEE, Ariz. – On Monday, the Law and Order Committee received reports from the LeChee Chapter administration and chapter officials, Antelope Point Marina general manager Mike Anderson, and the Page Police Department regarding the need for a police sub station in LeChee, which is located approximately five-miles south of Page, Ariz.

During his report, LeChee Chapter president Jerry Williams plead for more police officers to provide public safety services due to the high volume of tourists in LeChee and surrounding communities.

LOC member Council Delegate Herman Daniels, Jr. (Shonto, Naa'tsis'Áán, Oljato, Ts'ah Bii Kin) explained some of the challenges regarding public safety within rural communities, who represents four chapters in the Western Navajo Agency.

“Navajo western agency chapters are located in high tourist traffic areas and each chapter has large land bases, which makes it difficult to provide any services in rural areas. However, safety concerns should be a priority for the chapters and work together to make services available for community members and visitors,” said Delegate Daniels.

During the report, Council Delegate Tuchoney Slim, Jr. (Bodaway/Gap, Coppermine, K'ai'Bii'To, LeChee, Tonalea/Red Lake) highlighted many challenges relating to jurisdiction between the Navajo Nation Parks and Recreation Department, City of Page, and National Park Services.

According to the Page Police Department, they have assisted the Nation by responding to approximately 200 calls in 2016, and provided cross commission and cultural sensitivity awareness trainings for their officers.

In March 2016, the committee approved an Intergovernmental Agreement between the Navajo Nation Police Department and the Page Police Department to improve law enforcement services by providing mutual use of police personnel and resources in the event of a disaster, disorder, emergencies, or special requests in the respective jurisdiction.

LOC member Council Delegate Kee Allen Begay, Jr. (Low Mountain, Many Farms, Nazlini, Tachee/Blue Gap, Tselani/Cottonwood) recommended LeChee, Bodaway/Gap, Coppermine, and K'ai'Bii'To Chapter, NNDPS, and Antelope Point Marina to collaborate and develop a strategic plan to build a police sub station.

“The committee needs a collaborative, proper, well established plan from the entities. Everyone needs to come together and develop a plan that the committee can endorse. The process to build a police sub station could be rapidly done if everyone is on the same page,” said Delegate Begay.

The Law and Order Committee approved all the reports with a 2-0 vote.

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