



Navajo Nation Council approves Síhásin Funding for Ganado Senior Citizens and Veterans Center building design and construction

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: July 27, 2020

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. — Design and construction funding was approved by the 24th Navajo Nation Council during the 2020 Summer Session Jul. 22 for the Ganado Senior Citizens and Veterans Center. The allocation was supported through Legislation no. 0001-20 sponsored by Council Delegate Vince R. James (Jeddito, Cornfields, Ganado, Kinlichee, Steamboat).

A total of \$1,444,032 was allocated to the Navajo Nation Capital Projects Management Department on behalf of the Ganado Chapter for a planned 4,800 square-foot facility that will serve as a meeting space for the Lók'aa' Niteel Veterans Organization in addition to serving Navajo senior citizens.

The former Ganado Senior Center was located within a double-wide residential trailer. The Ganado Chapter closed the facility in 2016 after the Navajo Nation Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) cited several building deficiencies in its recommendation to close the senior center.

The project, through a directive from former Navajo Nation Vice President Rex Lee Jim to the Navajo Nation Capital Improvement Office, began its first planning activities in 2012. Administrators met with Ganado leadership on Jun. 20, 2012, at which point a 10-acre site was identified and the blessing of grazing permit holders was secured.

During the 23rd Navajo Nation Council, an allocation of \$833,333 for the Ganado Senior Citizens Project was approved through Resolution No. CAP-35-18. That resolution approved and adopted the Síhásin Fund Powerline and Chapter Projects Expenditure Plan and included numerous development projects.

Delegate James continued advocating for the project after joining the 24th Navajo Nation Council in 2019. With Wednesday's vote by the Council, the final resolution will now be forwarded to the Office of the President and Vice President for action.

The Budget and Finance Committee approved Legislation No. 0001-20 on Jan. 21 with a vote of 4 in favor and 0 opposed. The Resources and Development Committee considered the legislation next on Jan. 22 and voted to approve it with 5 in favor and 0 opposed. The legislation was then considered by the Naabik'iyáti' Committee on Jan. 23 and was approved with a vote of 14 in favor and 0 opposed.

The legislation was originally intended to be discussed at the 2020 Winter Session on Jan. 27. However, delegates agreed to consider the legislation at a later date to allow time for Navajo Nation Permanent Fund Income Five-Year Expenditure Plan legislation to be put into place.

The 24th Navajo Nation Council voted to approve Legislation No. 0001-20 with unanimous support of 22 in favor and 0 opposed.

###

MEDIA CONTACTS: nnlb.communications@gmail.com, (928) 287-2085
Byron C. Shorty, INT Communications Director
Timothy Benally, Public Information Officer
Isabella S. Robbins, Staff Writer