



The 24TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL
Office of the Speaker

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Funding for the Kayenta Judicial Complex approved by the 24th Navajo Nation Council

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WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. — On Tuesday, members of the 24th Navajo Nation Council approved Legislation No. 0065-22 authorizing \$13,215,000 to be transferred out of the Síhasin Fund for the completion of the Kayenta Judicial Complex during a Special Session.

“With this new addition to not only Kayenta but to several surrounding communities, vital judicial and law enforcement services will have the ability to carry out their work dutifully without complications,” said Hon. Speaker Seth Damon (Bááhaalí, Chichiltah, Manuelito, Red Rock, Rock Springs, Tséyatoh).

Sponsored by Hon. Council Delegate Nathaniel Brown (Dennehotso, Kayenta, Chííłchinbii'tó), the Complex will improve safer access to various offices such as the Kayenta District and Family Courts, Public Defender's office, Kayenta District Police station, Probation and Parole Services, Peacemaking Program, and the Department of Correction.

The current 25-year-old court facility provides a variety of court services to the Kayenta Township and surrounding Navajo Nation communities such as Ts'ah Bii Kin, Naatsis'aan, Oljato, Dennehotso, Shonto, and Chilchinbeto. It has been noted to be cramped, aged, and inadequate to provide the necessary judicial services needed.

The proposed new 17,000 square foot complex will provide a permanent building for court services that include safer and comfortable meeting spaces for victims and witnesses to promote privacy and confidentiality.

“This judicial complex has been in the works for over two decades starting with discussions in 2001 about the barriers experienced by Navajo Nation Judicial Districts in which a four-phase master plan was created,” said Delegate Brown.

In June of 2021, the Kayenta District Court Judge and the Kayenta Court Administrator prepared a proposal discussing the need for the new building and requested the \$13,215,000. Including that pursuant to Resolution No. LOCJN-04-17, the Law and Order Committee identified construction of a new Kayenta Judicial Complex as the third priority for construction of judicial/public safety facilities on the Navajo Nation.

In the proposal, it explained that the first two phases of the project were partially funded through appropriations from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. However, the last phases of the Project which involve construction of the planned Juvenile Detention and Judicial Facilities remain to be completed.

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The Kayenta Township Commission reaffirmed that the Township will act as fiscal agent for all funds for the construction of the Kayenta Judicial Complex and hereby approves and authorizes the Township to carry out the construction of the Complex.

“I commend my fellow colleagues of the 24th Navajo Nation Council for voting in favor of this legislation that will benefit not only the Kayenta Township or surrounding communities but the entire Navajo Nation and its people,” said Delegate Brown.

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