



The 24TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL
Office of the Speaker

MEDIA CONTACTS

Kyron Hardy, Interim Communications Director
Kolton Nephew, Legislative Staff Writer
E-mail: nnlb.communications@gmail.com

Navajo Nation Council approves new HVAC system for Oljato Chapter Senior Center

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: October 5, 2022

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. — Last week, during a Special Session, the 24th Navajo Nation Council passed Legislation No. 0165-22 approving \$89,480 from the Unreserved, Undesignated Fund Balance (UUFB) for a new heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) system for the Oljato Chapter Senior Center in Oljato, Utah.

At the beginning of the session, Hon. Council Delegate Herman M. Daniels, Jr. (Ts'ah Bii' Kin, Navajo Mountain, Shonto, Oljato) motioned to amend the agenda to include the legislation. As the prime sponsor, Delegate Daniels emphasized the need for immediate action as the Oljato Chapter Senior Center's HVAC system has been failing for over a year.

"Now as the days grow colder, our elders who utilize the Oljato Chapter Senior Center are in need of a new HVAC system to keep warm through the long winter ahead," said Hon. Council Delegate Herman Daniels, Jr. "This issue has been on-going for almost two years, so it is crucial we act now when we have the opportunity to assist the lives of those who once cared for us."

Despite the lack of adequate heating and cooling, the senior center has managed to continue providing services to the elderly residents of the Oljato community. If the issue persists, an imminent shutdown would deny those who rely on a variety of services such as daily meals.

In July, the Navajo Nation Office of the Controller sent the 24th Navajo Nation Council a memorandum regarding the budget request, stating the responsible party would be the Legislative Branch to assist in processing the legislation. During the Special Session, questions surrounding the appropriation of UUFB funds to pay for the installation were clarified as the Executive Branch has final authority on signing budgets to programs managed by their respective departments.

"Our elders are a vital source of our Nation and as elected officials and community members, it is our responsibility to communicate and collaborate on what is best for our parents and grandparents," said Speaker Damon (Bááhaalí, Chichiltah, Manuelito, Red Rock, Rock Springs, Tséyatoh). "Across the Navajo Nation, fall is upon us and it is important that we care for our elders, thus, I am grateful towards Delegate Daniels and the 24th Navajo Nation Council for prioritizing our elders."

Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez has 10 days after the legislation has been certified to sign the legislation into law.

###