

THE NAVAJO NATION
LEGISLATIVE BRANCH
INTERNET PUBLIC REVIEW PUBLICATION



LEGISLATION NO: _0084-23_

SPONSOR: Andy Nez

TITLE: An Action Relating to Law and Order and Naabik'iyáti' Committees; Supporting the Navajo Nation Division of Public Safety Window Rock Judicial/Public Safety Facility Relocation to Fort Defiance, Arizona.

Date posted: April 20, 2023 10:00 PM

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LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY SHEET

Tracking No. 0084-23

DATE: April 20, 2023

TITLE OF RESOLUTION: AN ACTION RELATING TO LAW AND ORDER AND NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEES; SUPPORTING THE NAVAJO NATION DIVISION OF PUBLIC SAFETY WINDOW ROCK JUDICIAL/PUBLIC SAFETY FACILITY RELOCATION TO FORT DEFIANCE, ARIZONA.

PURPOSE: This resolution, if approved, will support the Navajo Nation Division of Public Safety Window Rock Judicial/Public Safety Facility Relocation to Fort Defiance, Arizona.

This written summary does not address recommended amendments as may be provided by the standing committee. The Office of Legislative Counsel requests each Council Delegate to review the proposed resolution in detail.

5-DAY BILL HOLD PERIOD: Johnson

Website Posting Time/Date: _____

Posting End Date: 04-25-23

Eligible for Action: 04-26-23

Law & Order Committee
Thence
Naabik'iyáti' Committee

1 PROPOSED STANDING COMMITTEE RESOLUTION
2 25th NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL – First Year, 2023

3 INTRODUCED BY

4 

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6 (Sponsor)

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8 TRACKING NO. 0084-23

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10 AN ACTION

11 RELATING TO LAW AND ORDER AND NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEES;
12 SUPPORTING THE NAVAJO NATION DIVISION OF PUBLIC SAFETY
13 WINDOW ROCK JUDICIAL/PUBLIC SAFETY FACILITY RELOCATION
14 TO FORT DEFIANCE, ARIZONA.

15
16 WHEREAS:

- 17
- 18 A. The Law and Order Committee (“LOC”) is a standing committee of the Navajo Nation
- 19 Council empowered to provide oversight over corrections and the courts, enabling the
- 20 Navajo Nation to provide efficient public safety services on the Navajo Nation. The
- 21 LOC is also empowered to establish and develop the Navajo Nation’s justice systems
- 22 infrastructure including justice system facilities and to promote institutional planning
- 23 and coordination among and between justice-system related entities. 2 N.N.C. §
- 24 600(C).
- 25 B. The Law and Order Committee is empowered to grant approval for agreements
- 26 negotiated by public safety programs with other federal, state, international, tribal,
- 27 regional, and local governmental agencies, subject to Naabik'iyáti' Committee approval
- 28 when required by law. 2 N.N.C. § 601(B)(1)(a),
- 29 C. The Naabik'iyáti' Committee is empowered to coordinate all federal, county and state
- 30 programs with other standing committees and branches of the Navajo Nation

1 government to provide the most efficient delivery of services to the Navajo Nation. 2
2 N.N.C. § 701(A)(4).

- 3 D. Resolution LOCJN-04-17, approved a project priority list for the Judicial/Public Safety
4 Fund. Under LOCJN-04-17's the Fund Management Plan, LOC must approve funding
5 for projects and activities under the approved plan and priority list.
- 6 E. Resolution LOCJN-04-17 also identified the partially-closed and dilapidated Window
7 Rock court and detention center as the number one priority project and that the
8 Tséhootsooi Justice Center project would replace the Window Rock facilities.
- 9 F. The memorandum, attached as **Exhibit A**, provided by the Director of the Department
10 of Corrections, Dr. Greyeyes, explains that the Window Rock Judicial Public Safety
11 Task Force ("Task Force") determined that the four (4) acres in Window Rock,
12 Arizona, available for development was not feasible to house the Tséhootsooi Justice
13 Center project.
- 14 G. The Task Force, which includes the Navajo Nation Public Safety Department,
15 identified and requested forty (40) acres of land available for development in Fort
16 Defiance, Arizona, for the Tséhootsooi Justice Center, attached as **Exhibit B**.
- 17 H. The Fort Defiance Chapter, in resolution FDC-2019-10-01, identified and approved the
18 land withdrawal for the Navajo Nation Public Division of Public Safety and Judicial
19 Department facility, located approximately 2.5 miles north of Navajo Route 12 and
20 Route 110 Intersection in Fort Defiance, Arizona, attached as **Exhibit C**.
- 21 I. In the active efforts to continue prioritizing the construction of the Tséhootsooi Justice
22 Center, Director Dr. Greyeyes, submitted a Space Expansion Package to the BIA
23 Division of Facilities Management and Construction ("DFMC"), which met all
24 necessary requirements for construction of the 45-bed facility, which will be a part of
25 the Tséhootsooi Justice Center. DFMC has requested a Navajo Nation Tribal
26 Resolution reflecting the Nation's support of the relocation of the Tséhootsooi Justice
27 Center to the forty (40) acre location identified in the attached Fort Defiance Chapter
28 resolutions to proceed with construction, attached as **Exhibit D**.

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THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

- A. The Navajo Nation Council supports the Tséhootsooi Justice Center relocation from the four (4) acre lot in Window Rock, Arizona to the forty (40) acre area identified in Fort Defiance.
- B. The Navajo Nation Council continues to supports the construction of the Tséhootsooi Justice Center as a priority of the Navajo Nation.